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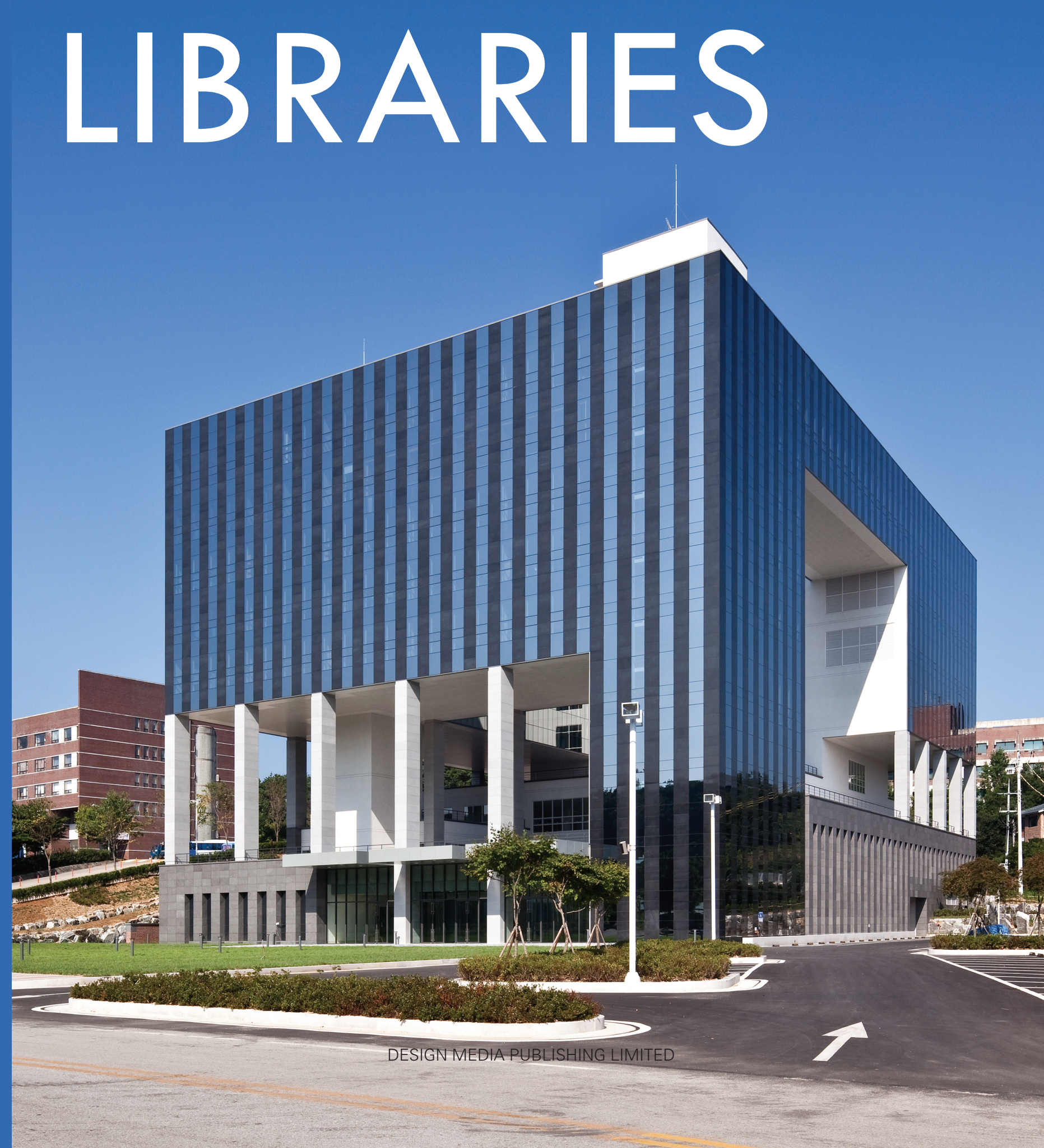


Contemporary libraries are no longer “houses of books” any more. With the advancement of high technology and the emergence of modern concepts such as digital library, avant-garde libraries bring you totally fresh and new reading experiences and establish new ideas of library. The book contains 39 library projects located all over the world, contributing professional references for architects and interior designers.

当书籍邂逅建筑，会碰撞出怎样的火花？本书将带你参观世界各地最新完成的图书馆，徜徉在弥漫着书香的建筑中，体味建筑师怎样将书籍与建筑巧妙结合，并融入当地的建筑风格。书中对建筑和室内设计领域均有涉及，在为专业设计师提供参考的同时，也将带给你一次别样的书香之旅。

LIBRARIES

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DESIGN MEDIA PUBLISHING LIMITED

LIBRARIES

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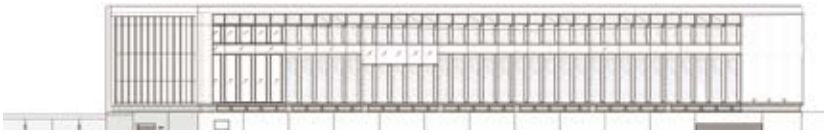
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Architect: ArchOfce & Michael Ng **Location:** North Shore City, New Zealand **Completion:** 2009 **GFA:** 2,600 m² **Photography:** ArchOfce



Northwest elevation



Southeast elevation



Longitudinal section

Birkenhead Library and Civic Centre

The new Birkenhead Library and Civic Centre is a purpose-built new-generation library situated on a reserve site in Birkenhead, Auckland, New Zealand. The architectural concept for the library is based around a simple narrative of looking through ancient trees that existed on the site to the view – thus notions of solid and void, transparency, light quality, pattern and form were considered and modelled to inform various design demands. The intention was to have a pleasant and verdant quality of light available within the building that subtly changes during the day, leading to the building becoming transparent at night.

There are a number of innovative uses of materials that were selected to both strengthen and complement the design concept. The use of brick both internally and externally historically acknowledges the old Plunket buildings that previously occupied the site and provides a strong organisational element to the building's floor plan. Laminated Purple Heart and Alaskan Yellow Cedar vertical “fins” undulate and screen the west façade. These are aesthetically sculptural while also practically acting as sun control. Timber “fins” are also used as balustrades on the mezzanine and exterior decks and create attractive detail when viewed from ground and street level. Patterned laser-cut sheets form a striking internal perforated screen to the south façade. Glazed vertical slots (with glass alternating green and blue) behind the screens create further depth and dapple the incoming morning light. Precast patterned lightweight panels form the exterior south façade, installed in a manner to continue the sense of lightness and transparency. The use of lightweight concrete reduces the level of additional insulation required. Laser-cut perforated ceiling panels also provide dappled light through roof lights above and also functionally act as smoke extracts and air extract for the smoke extract fans located within the ceiling space.

The building houses the Birkenhead Library, Council Cashiers, Information Services, Plunket and Citizens Advise Bureau. It combines Wi-Fi, RFID, Internet and BMS technologies within contemporary architecture, space planning and design. On-site public parking for 31 cars within the building and a drive-through book return have been provided as a New Zealand first initiative. It was designed with each tenant in mind and caters to the individual organisation with both specific and shared spaces, thereby creating a cost-effective use of specialised space. Although designed for specific tenants and purposes, the building allows a great degree of flexibility, as technology is expected to change the provision of future library services and it is foreseeable that the library will eventually occupy the entire building. The public library space incorporates comfortable seating, generous study space and six meeting rooms that can be booked by the public and accessed after hours independently of the library. In addition, a successful model for traditional children's and young adult areas, fiction and non-fiction shelving has been followed. A learning centre on the ground floor and a smaller version in the children's area provide the opportunity for single or group learning and training classes.

1. Night view of northwest façade
2. Entrance
3. View from west





1



2

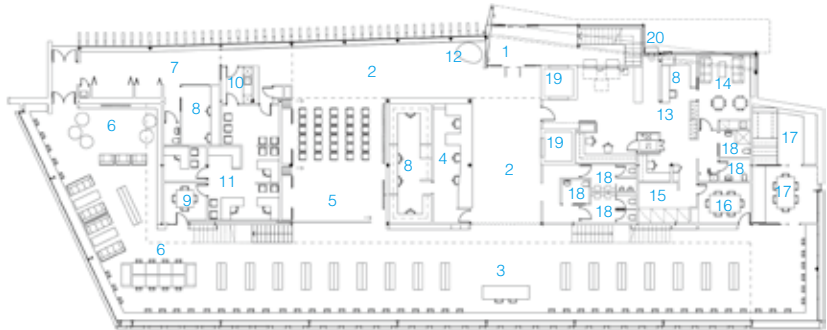


3



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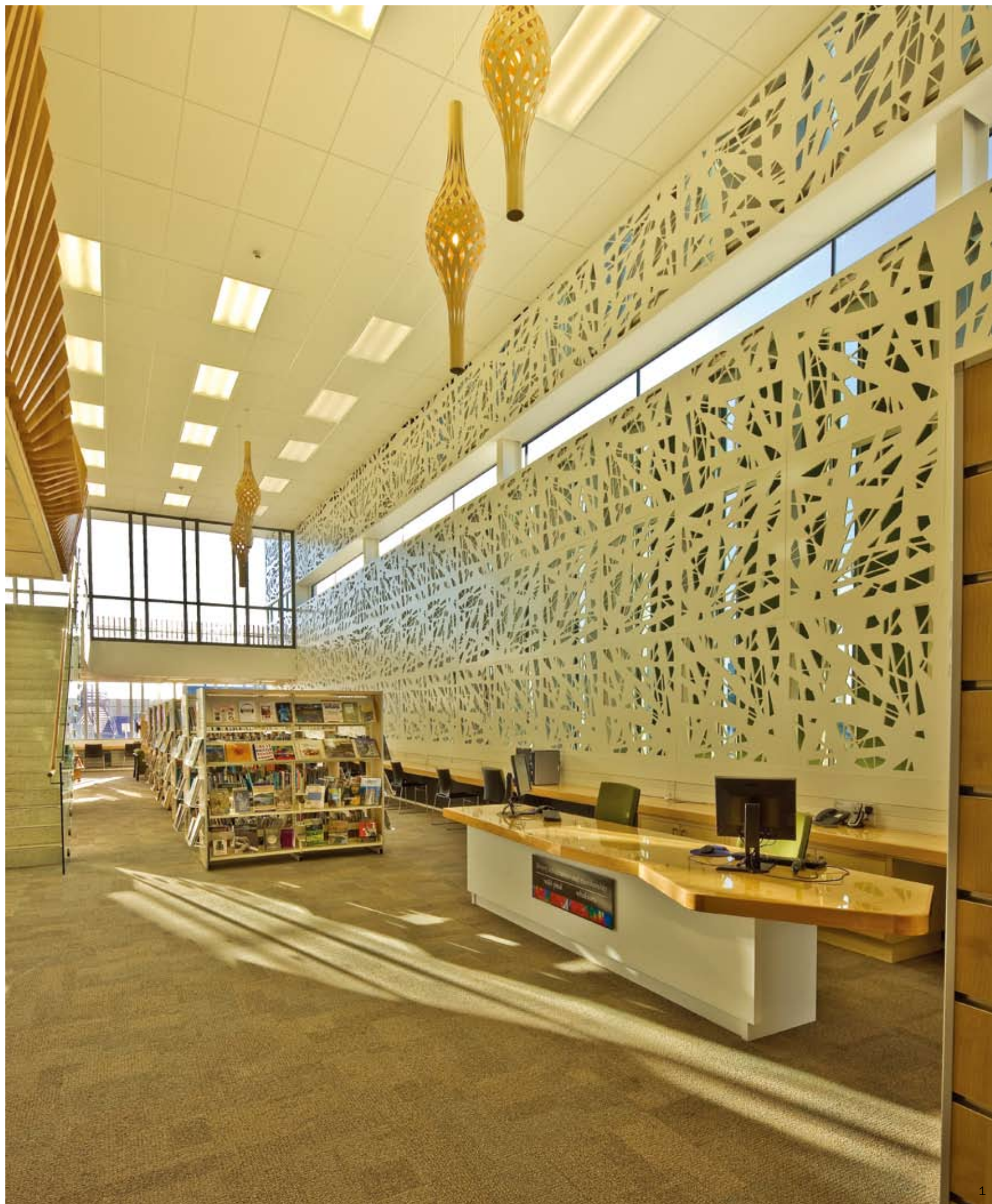
Awards:
NZIA Auckland Architecture Award, Public Architecture, 2010
NZIA Auckland Architecture Award, Sustainable Architecture, 2010
NZIA Auckland Architecture Award, Resene Award, 2010



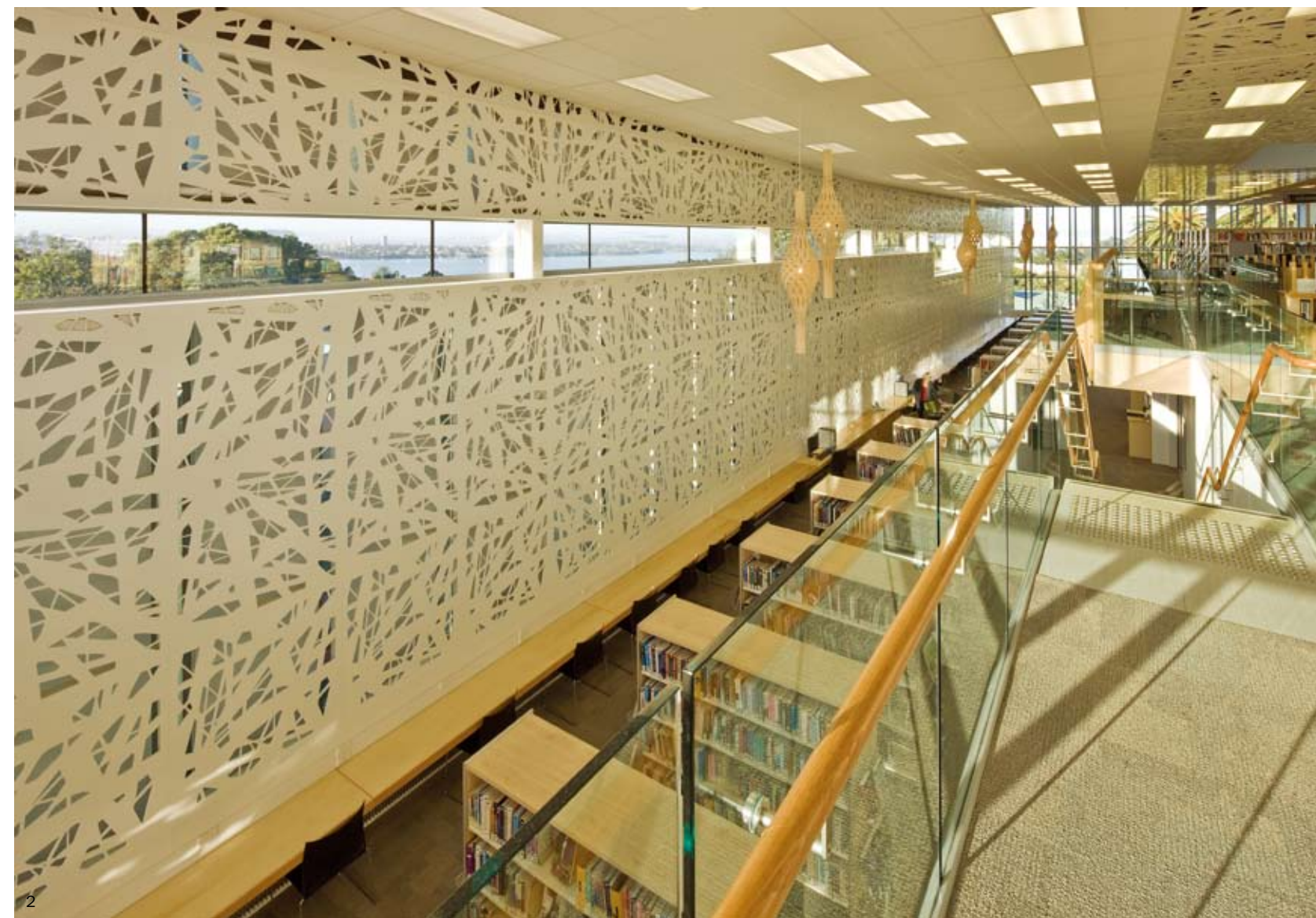
Ground floor plan

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Main entrance | 11. C.A.B |
| 2. Lobby | 12. C.A.B waiting |
| 3. Library | 13. Workroom |
| 4. Customer services | 14. Staffroom |
| 5. Community meeting room | 15. Resource area |
| 6. Learning centre / young adults | 16. Meeting room |
| 7. Plunket | 17. Local history / archives |
| 8. Office | 18. WC |
| 9. Meeting | 19. Lift |
| 10. Kitchen | 20. Book return |

1. Aerial view
2–3. Landscape
4. Northeast façade



1



2

1. Reception
2. Bookshelves on the ground and first floor
3. Translucent roof



3

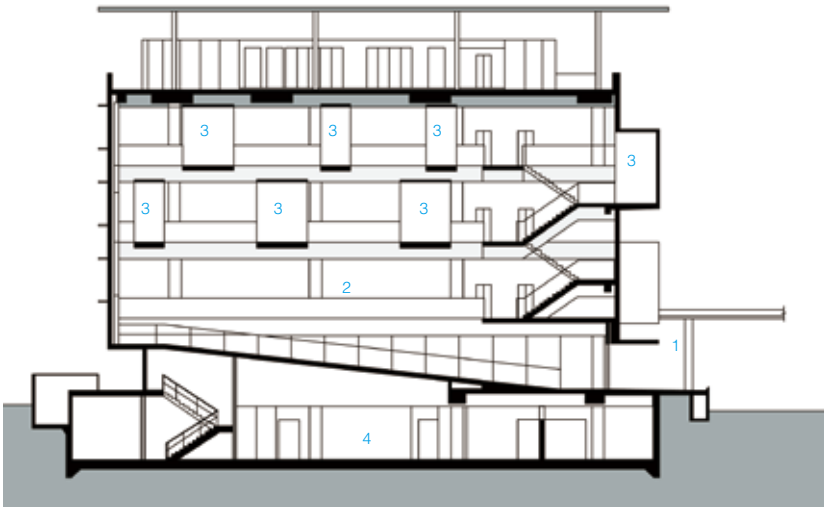


1. Perimeter reading area
2. Top floor reading area and collection
3. Reading area



Bishan Public Library

Architect: LOOK Architects **Location:** Singapore **Completion:** 2006 **GFA:** 6,969 m² **Photography:** Patrick Bingham-Hall & Tim Nolan



Section

- 1. Public walkway
- 2. Atrium
- 3. Reading pods
- 4. Basement library

The metaphor of a tree house was invoked from the onset of design conceptualisation to create an environment for learning via a journey of discovery and play. The use of skylights, trellises and coloured glass transforms incoming daylight into a myriad of shades and colours, creating an intriguing dappled light quality within the library that simulates light filtered through the foliage of trees. “Pods” cantilevered off the main building façade exude a distinctive charisma on the exterior and create suspended alcoves at an intimate scale from the building interior. The library is raised above the anonymity of its mixed-use neighbourhood and sets out to stir the curiosity of the community.

Conflicting requirements – view orientation, solar control and regulation of unprotected openings mandated by the statutory fire safety code – were satisfied by a highly rationalised spatial strategy. An internal atrium was incorporated to introduce natural daylight deep into the main circulation zone, as well as most of the library floors, and the back-of-house was concentrated as a solid core on the western elevation that also serves to shield the building from the harsh evening sun. A gently sloping ramp leads people from the street level up to the collection zone through the atrium and also acts as an efficient discharge route for large crowds.

Responding to a highly constricted urban site amidst a mature satellite town, the design answers demands for an efficient construction method that minimises impact on its surroundings. In-situ concrete structure comprising four typical floor slabs over a basement are linked by a common lift and staircase core, and internal columns are kept to a minimum through the use of post-tensioned floor slabs, effectively maximising floor area and increasing flexibility of collection storage. Exploiting its potential of noise segregation, the basement was designed to house the children’s section, defining a subterranean cavern-like realm where imagination can run free.

Departing from the traditional concept of libraries as stoic repositories of knowledge, the architectural approach for this project emphasises on the experiential quality of spaces. This is critical in an age where human senses have been seemingly numbed by the virtual world. Bishan Public Library proves that a library as a physical place can still very much offer a unique and irreplaceable experience.

1. Side view
2. “Pods” cantilevered off the main building façade
3. Front view

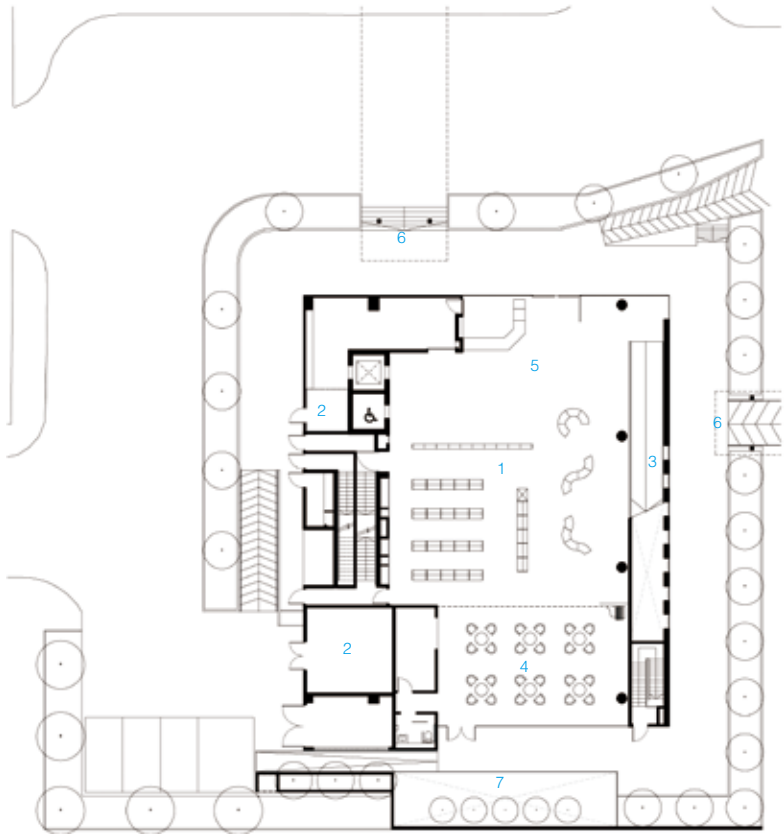




1. Hall
2. Hall
3. Interior view of the pod



Awards:
President's Design Award, Singapore – Design of the Year, 2007
Cityscape Architectural Review Awards, Dubai – Design for an Emerging World, 2006



Ground floor plan
1. Library stack
2. Back-of-house
3. Ramp
4. Café
5. Entrance / foyer
6. Covered walkway
7. Void



1



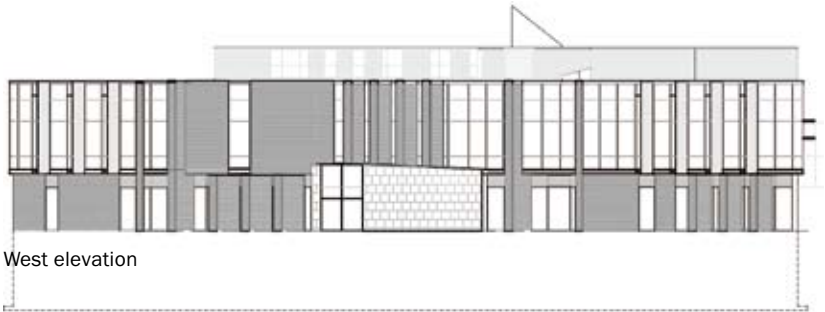
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- 1. Lounge in the reading room
- 2. Reading room

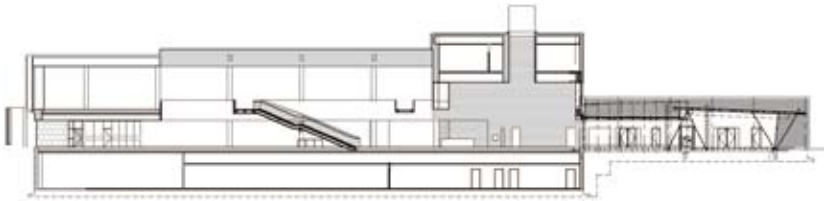
Architect: Ross Barney Architects **Location:** Champaign, Illinois, USA **Completion:** 2008 **GFA:** 11, 240 m²
Photography: Ben Halpern, Craig Dugan, Hedrich Blessing & Ross Barney Architects



North elevation



West elevation



Section

1. Close-up of the west façade by night
2. Daytime view of west façade
3. Southeast view
4. Panorama by night



Champaign Public Library

The Champaign Public Library was housed in a facility built in the late 1970s. It had become outdated, undersized and difficult to maintain. A new building programme identified a facility more than twice the size of the existing. Patron programmes and technology requirements mandated improvements that could not readily be accommodated. As a result, the library board determined that a new facility was necessary.

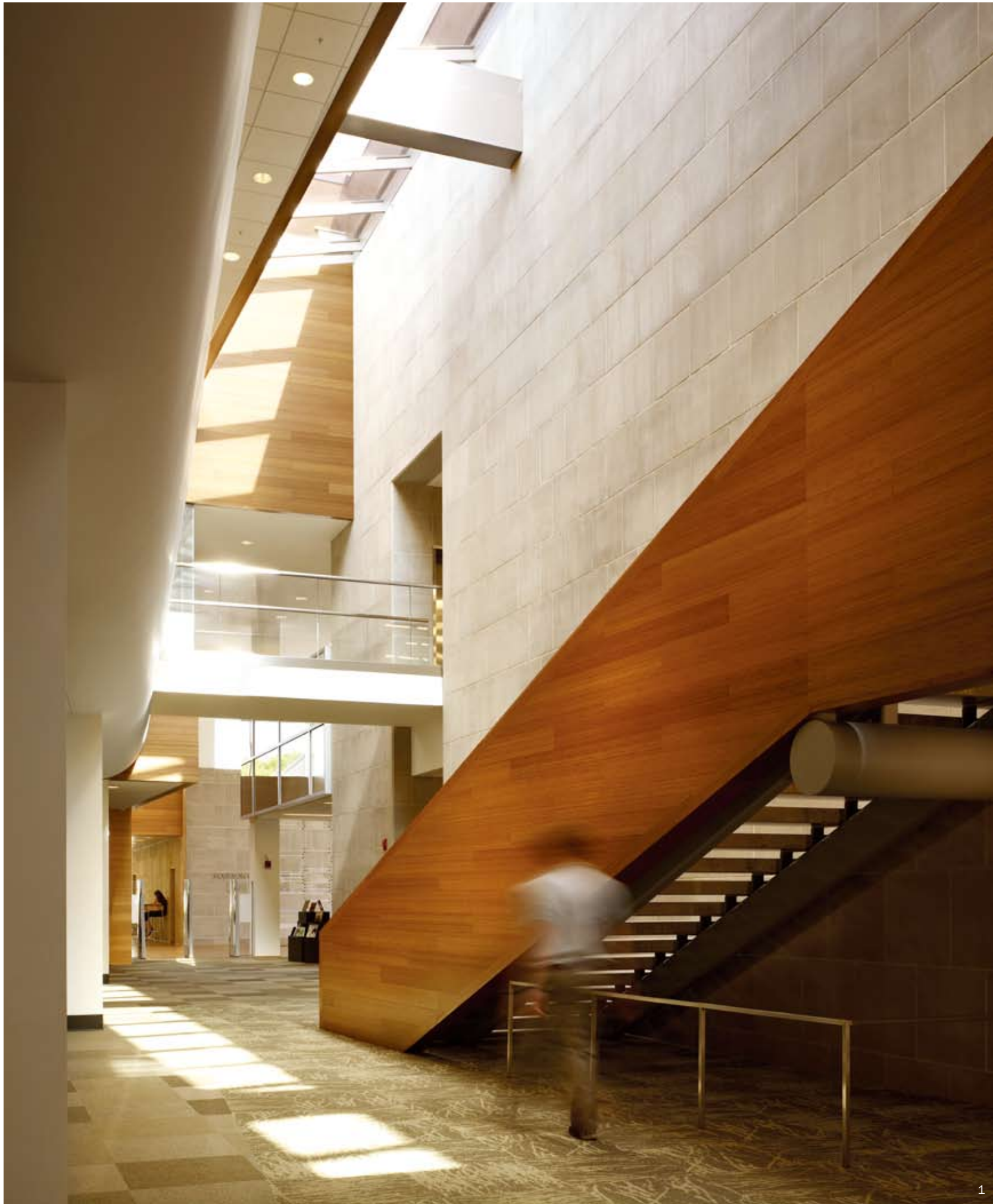
Ross Barney Architects was commissioned to assist the Champaign Public Library in designing a new facility that responds to the needs of a high-tech library for the 21st century and one that responds to the needs of the community. The design works within constraints of a small site, maintaining building operations throughout construction and a tight budget. The design of approximately 11, 240 square metres locates the new \$22 million building north of the existing facility. The site is bisected by a new entry drive, creating separate zones for parking and for the new library. The building is raised on a monumental grass plinth presenting a civic image to the arriving patron and separating the building from the major vehicular thoroughfare along the south end of the site.

The library programme is organised on two levels that separate the youth and adult services, and with the administration located on a second floor mezzanine. The depth of the resulting floor plate was relieved by a series of lightwells and clerestories that allow natural light to reach the ground level children’s collection. A central two-level atrium “spine” leads the patron from the entry lobby through the various collection spaces creating a dramatic gateway to library services.

A multi-purpose conference centre is also planned to accommodate day-to-day library activities and provide much needed space for public gatherings after hours. A café is located on the ground floor to create a dynamic gathering space. The functional organisations are expressed on the exterior by a balance of glazed surfaces and solids. The proposed materials are brick, limestone, copper and glass.

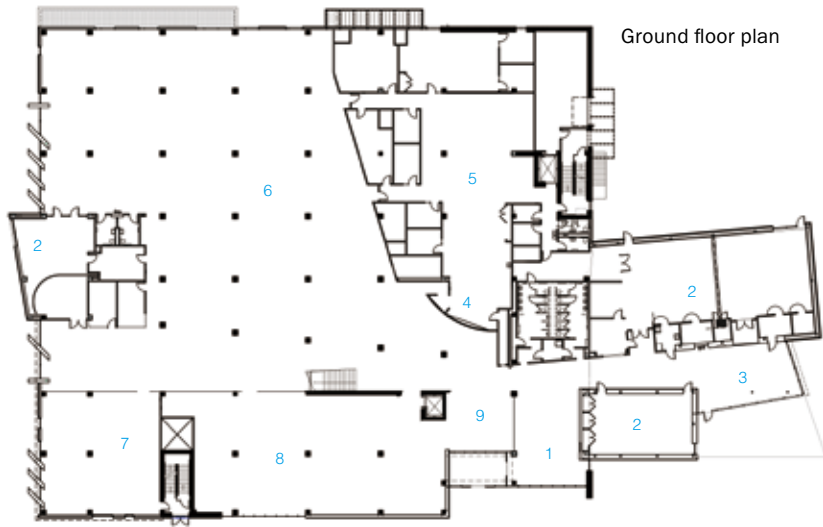
Awards:
AIA Central Illinois Design Award, 2008





1. Hallway and the main stairs
2. View to the main stairs
3. Reference counter

1. Lobby
2. Meeting room
3. Cafeteria
4. Circulation
5. Workroom
6. Children's collection
7. Teens
8. Quiet study
9. New materials



Ground floor plan



1



2

- 1. Vertical structure
- 2. Quiet study with terrace
- 3. Ground floor reading area



3



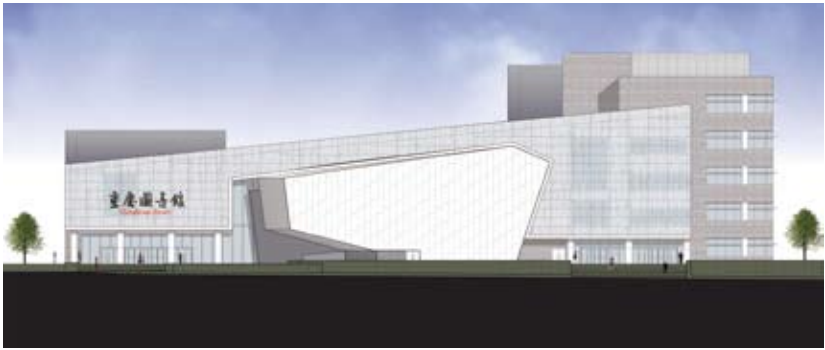
1. Periodical area
2. Reading area
3. Casual seating



Architect: Perkins Eastman **Location:** Chongqing, China **Completion:** 2007 **GFA:** 50,000 m²
Photography: Zhihui Gu & Tim Griffith



South elevation



North elevation

1. South pool
2. North theatre entrance
3. Library entrance stairs
4. Library entrance with water



Chongqing Library

The previous Chongqing Library, occupying 22,000 square metres, was set up in 1947 as one of five National Chinese Libraries. Under the design leadership of Perkins Eastman, Chongqing Library evolved into a stunning design for a 50,000-square-metre urban complex. The programme of the Chongqing Library exemplifies a transformation from a house for books into a cultural centre which includes a public theatre, exhibition hall, open computer learning facilities, ancient archives, and reading rooms. The centre is a major destination for learning – offering hotel rooms for scholar’s overnight stays, a conferencing centre for symposia, a restaurant, and a café.

To convey the importance of this new city landmark, the design team predicated their concept on the notion that reading, learning, knowledge, and the exchange of ideas need to be free, open, and accessible to all of the public. To reinforce this notion, Perkins Eastman sheathed the building almost entirely in glass so that the public could readily see the inside of the building and the actively engaged visitors. The architects inscribed this glass façade with a text pattern that idealises the profound impact of life-long learning on individuals and society.

The building’s form is based on both the Chinese architectural tradition of the courtyard and the interior multi-storey atrium halls of traditional western libraries. The courtyard of the Chongqing Library deviates from these traditions in that it is visibly open to public. Approaching the library, visitors see a sculptural reflecting pool that gently cascades into the central courtyard garden oasis, one level below the public sidewalk level. The outdoor courtyard spaces provide a unique oasis within the bustling city, visible from the street level but sunken below grade to achieve separation from the active urban streetscape and only accessible through the secured building’s reading rooms.

The boundaries between inside and outside are purposely blurred, allowing the building’s users to feel that they are in a place of nature and serenity. The building’s interior reading rooms are envisioned as floating platforms among the forest. Readers can view from platform to platform, which provides a variety of smaller, intimate reading areas while allowing for visual interest. “Y”-shaped concrete columns support light canopies over reference areas. Stone is used both as an exterior and interior material, with patterns and colours matching the older buildings and streets of the city.

The design uses glass and stone to articulate public and private areas of the library. The public areas facing Feng Tian Avenue are sheathed in glass to connote transparency and visibility for users and pedestrians. It also provides a visual transition from the public plaza to the public areas of the library. The book stacks and service areas to the west are clad in stone to represent security and the solidity of the library’s collection.

Rather than allow the avenue to divide the site into two pieces, the design incorporates the sloping, active streetscape within the project. The building





creates Chongqing's Library Plaza, marking this very important cultural place and intersection in the city. This plaza is described by cascading water, formal plantings, stairs, and bridges. Whether passing through or stopping to explore, visitors will be constantly aware of the soaring glass reading rooms that overlook the central garden courtyard.

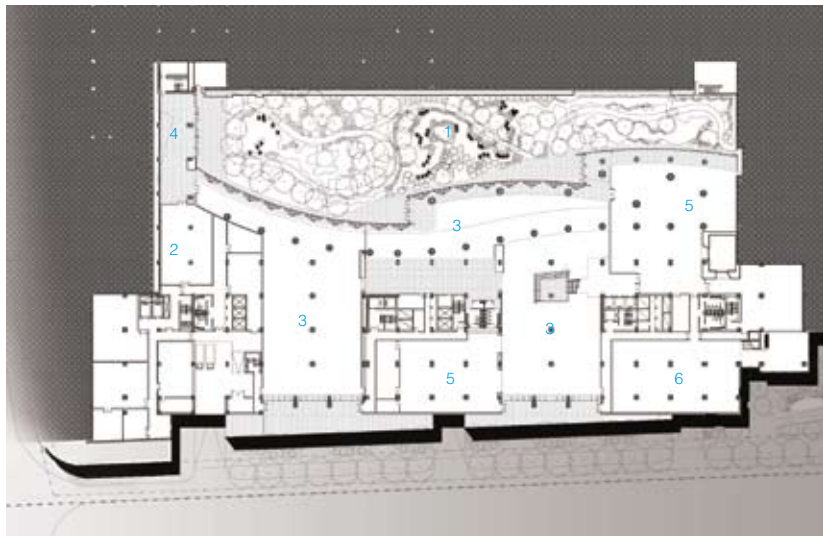
Awards:

AIA/American Library Association, Library Building Award for Design Excellence, 2009

1. Periodical reading room on the north
2. Periodical reading room



1. Periodical reading room on the south
2. Atrium
3. Atrium detail
4. Reading room
5. Entry lobby



Ground floor plan

1. Courtyard
2. Administration
3. Reading room
4. Meeting room
5. Collection stacks
6. Children's books



Architect: Schacht Aslani Architects **Location:** Seattle, USA **Completion:** 2006 **GFA:** 800 m² (expansion)
Photography: Michael Jensen (Mike Jensen Photo) & Lara Swimmer (Lara Swimmer Photography)



South elevation



East elevation



Section

1. East copper façade
2. Close-up of the window
3. Reflection of the historic building
4. Dusk view looking north



Douglass-Truth Branch, The Seattle Public Library

The bulk of the addition is located below grade to the east side of the historic structure. The historic lawn to the west of the library and views of the library's most prominent façades are preserved. The integrity of the historic building's key character-defining elements, such as its red tile roof and terra-cotta frieze, is maintained. The visible portion of the addition is a copper-clad volume that contains a meeting room on the main level and serves as a light monitor over the new, lower-level reading room. The monitor is separated from the original building by a low glass connector. The glazed exterior of the addition reflects the image of the landmark building by day and allows light from inside to spill out at night, creating an inviting beacon for passers-by.

The historic main entry provides access to the expanded library. The interior fabric of the original building, with its grand reading rooms, classical detailing and oak bookcases, has been maintained. A curving grand stair leads patrons from the historic building down into the addition, which contains the adult reading room and the library's African-American collection. The light monitor over the reading room brings daylight into the new structure and frames views looking back towards the historic building. The new meeting room, on the upper level of the addition, looks out over the adult reading room and has a separate exterior entrance for after-hours use.

Programme Requirements

The requirements of the Douglass-Truth expansion programme were centred on the growth of the historic Carnegie-era library from 740 square metres to 1,540 square metres in order to create better access to the largest collection of African-American books and ephemera in the Pacific Northwest. The addition was to provide a variety of new spaces for the library: a children's area, young adult area, periodicals lounge, general reading room, study room and meeting room, as well as offices and technical support spaces. As part of the design for the addition, the landmark building was to be refurbished, complete with new furniture and equipment.

Sustainability Goals

The sustainability goals for this project focused on renewing and expanding the existing library building in order to extend the life of the historic resource while reusing the site. Most of the addition is located below grade under a vegetated roof, which reduces stormwater runoff, urban heat island effect and cooling loads, while also minimising overall lot coverage. Daylighting of the addition reduces electrical energy use.

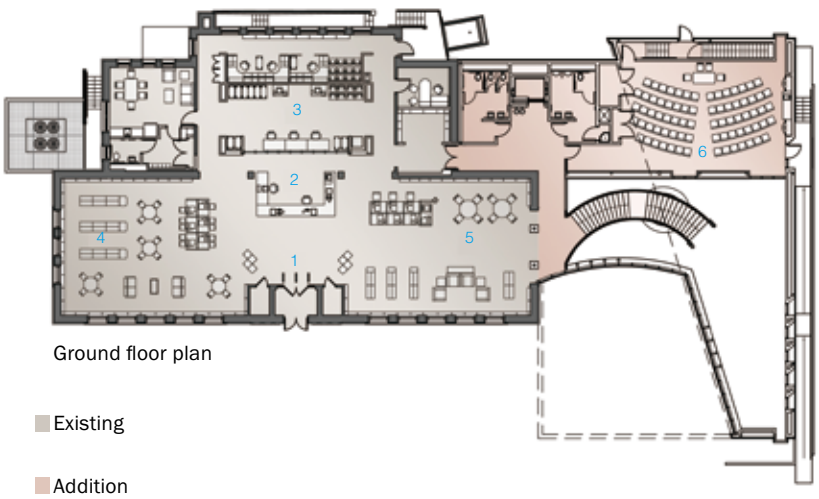
Awards:

Copper in Architecture Award, 2009
AIA Pacific New Region Merit Award, 2009





1. Reflection of old in new
2. Looking down from the meeting room
3. Stairs
4. View from the top of the staircase



1. Lobby / entrance
2. Circulation
3. Work area
4. Reading room
5. Young adult
6. Meeting room

Architect: Mazzanti & Arquitectos **Location:** Medellin, Colombia **Completion:** 2007 **GFA:** 3,727 m²
Photography: Sergio Gomez



Section

España Library

Background and requirements

The project is located on one of the hillsides of the city that have been affected by harsh violence since the 1980s because of several drug traffic networks that operate within its perimeter. It is part of the government's social master plan programme that aims to give equal economic and social opportunities to the population.

The programme asked for a building with library, training rooms, an administration and an auditorium in a sole building. The proposal fragmented the programme in three groups: The library, the training rooms, and the auditorium; then it joined them with a platform on the first floor that allows flexibility but at the same time autonomy of different activities. This platform helped improve public participation as you can easily see the many options you have when you enter the building.

Justification of the adopted solution

The city is located in the north of Los Andes mountain ridge, in a deep valley surrounded by steep topography. This geography defines the identity and the image of the city. The project aims to interpret this identity, and intends to integrate itself into the landscape by becoming part of it.

Architecture as landscape

Much more than a building, the project proposes the construction of a topography that belongs to the valley. It is a mechanism of organisation of the programme and the whole of its surroundings, showing the unknown directions of the irregular mountain contours, not like a metaphor, but like an organisation of form in the site, a folded building cut like the mountains that surround it. An artificial landscape that redefines the folded mountain structure in form and space, nullifying the idea of landscape as background and encouraging the ambiguity of building-landscape.

The site

The project is organised in two structures: the first one is the building-landscape (rocks) and the second one is a platform that integrates and transforms the covered space into a square that looks into the valley; this way, the building is empowered as a meeting place, multiplying the connections and letting it develop as a reference point.

The building as an icon

The site is composed of small brick houses, product of auto construction; and residue of green areas as a result of the impossibility to construct on it. This organisational system produces a uniform texture of the city and defines its landscape. Like an icon, the building keeps the tension that already exists. Geography becomes the element of hierarchy, and architecture the epitome of texture.

1. Aerial view of the site
2. Located on the hillside
3. Upward view towards the library from the foot of the hill
4. The three parts joined by a platform





Ambient and atmosphere
In addition to making it an icon, the first premise was to develop a building that, through its interior design, could de-contextualise the individual from the poverty that surrounds it, creating a warm atmosphere based on natural light, generating a great ambience for study and lecture. This is the reason why the building takes a timid look into the city through the small windows that show the relation with the valley, letting light enter from the top of the building.

Awards:
VI Ibero-American Architecture and Urbanism Bienal Lisboa, 2008 (Portugal)
Red Steel Pencil, 2008 (Colombia)
Blue Steel Pencil, 2008 (Colombia)
XXI Colombian Architecture Bienal, 2008 (Colombia)
XVI Panamerican Architecture Bienal in Quito, 2008 (Ecuador)



- 1. Sculptural outline by nightfall
- 2. Stairs ascending to the platform
- 3. Lighting effect of the platform at night
- 4. Panorama by night





1

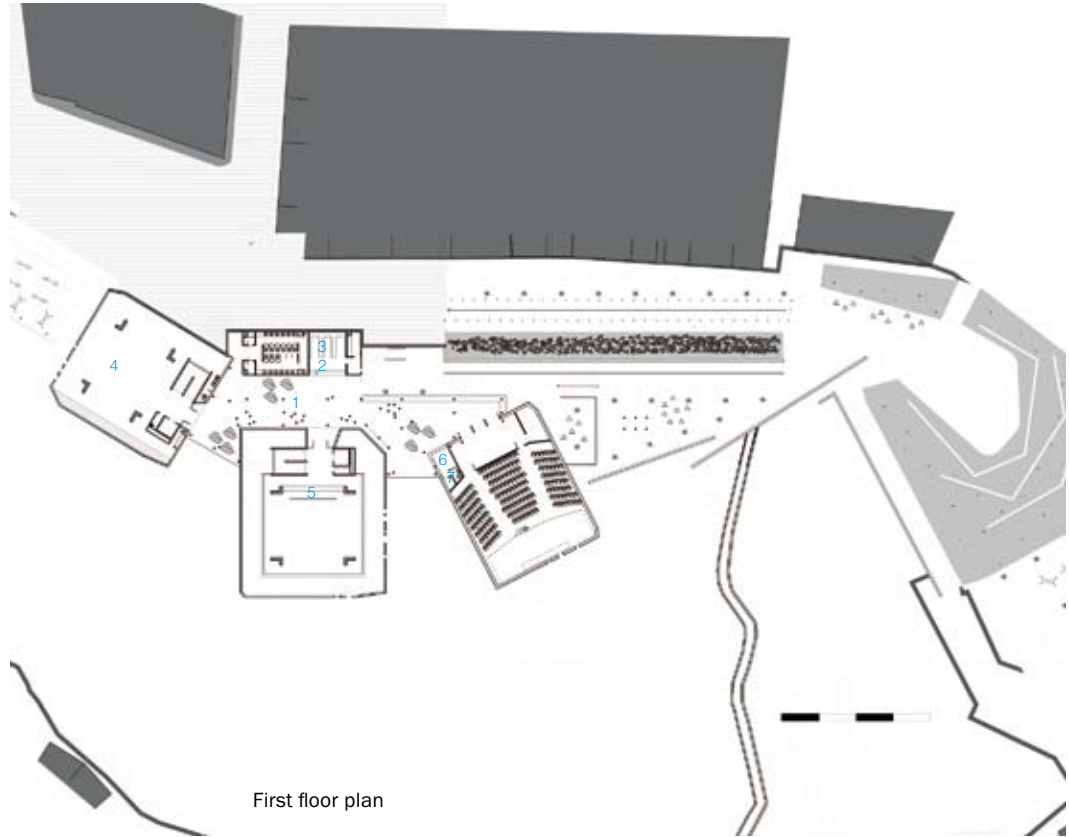


2



3

- 1. Aerial view of the reading area
- 2. Main library room
- 3. Casual seating near the reception



First floor plan

- 1. Indoor square
- 2. Reception
- 3. Lockers
- 4. Leisure library
- 5. Multi-functional room
- 6. Cafeteria
- 7. Storeroom

Halmstad Library

Architect: Schmidt Hammer Lassen Architects **Location:** Halmstad, Sweden **Completion:** 2006 **GFA:** 8,000 m² **Photography:** Schmidt Hammer Lassen Architects



Section A-A



Site plan

Halmstad Library is set within a park next to the Nissan River, overlooking the historic centre of Halmstad. With its atrium encircling a large existing chestnut tree – becoming its fulcrum – and the long concave façade with double-height glazing distended between the seemingly floating floor-plates, nature, the seasons and the city all become part of the library.

Inside, the library is essentially a single open space, flexible and highly legible: an open structure which allows an active interplay between the columns and the trees outside. The double-height glazing of the concave façade creates a welcoming, transparent ambience.

The atrium is the focal point that creates an instant overview and connects the library’s three floors vertically. Surrounding the atrium is the information plaza: an active zone containing the reception area, computer terminals, exhibitions, a café, and stairs to the balcony and the stacks in the basement. Around this zone – looking out in the direction of the façade and the view – the various sections unfurl, breathing their own tranquil atmosphere, affording users the space to ponder or be drawn in.

The library is extended across the wide expanse of the Nissan River, like a bridge linking the historic part of town and the new urban development area, formerly divided by the river for hundreds of years. A square in front of the library creates a new urban “space” which can host a range of civic activities.

The library is constructed of few and simple materials: concrete, glass and Nordic larch flooring that interact effectually with the exterior surroundings. The library is raised above street level on a forest of columns echoing the trees surrounding the building. The grass roof of the building is a sustainable solution, reducing UV penetration and the need for drainage, as well as providing additional insulation.

Awards:

Swedish Concrete Industry, Helgjutet Prize, 2007
Kasper Salin Award, Nomination, 2006
Architecture Prize of the Municipality of Halmstad, 2006

- 1. Long concave façade with double-height glazing
- 2. Entrance
- 3. View along the front elevation



1



2



3



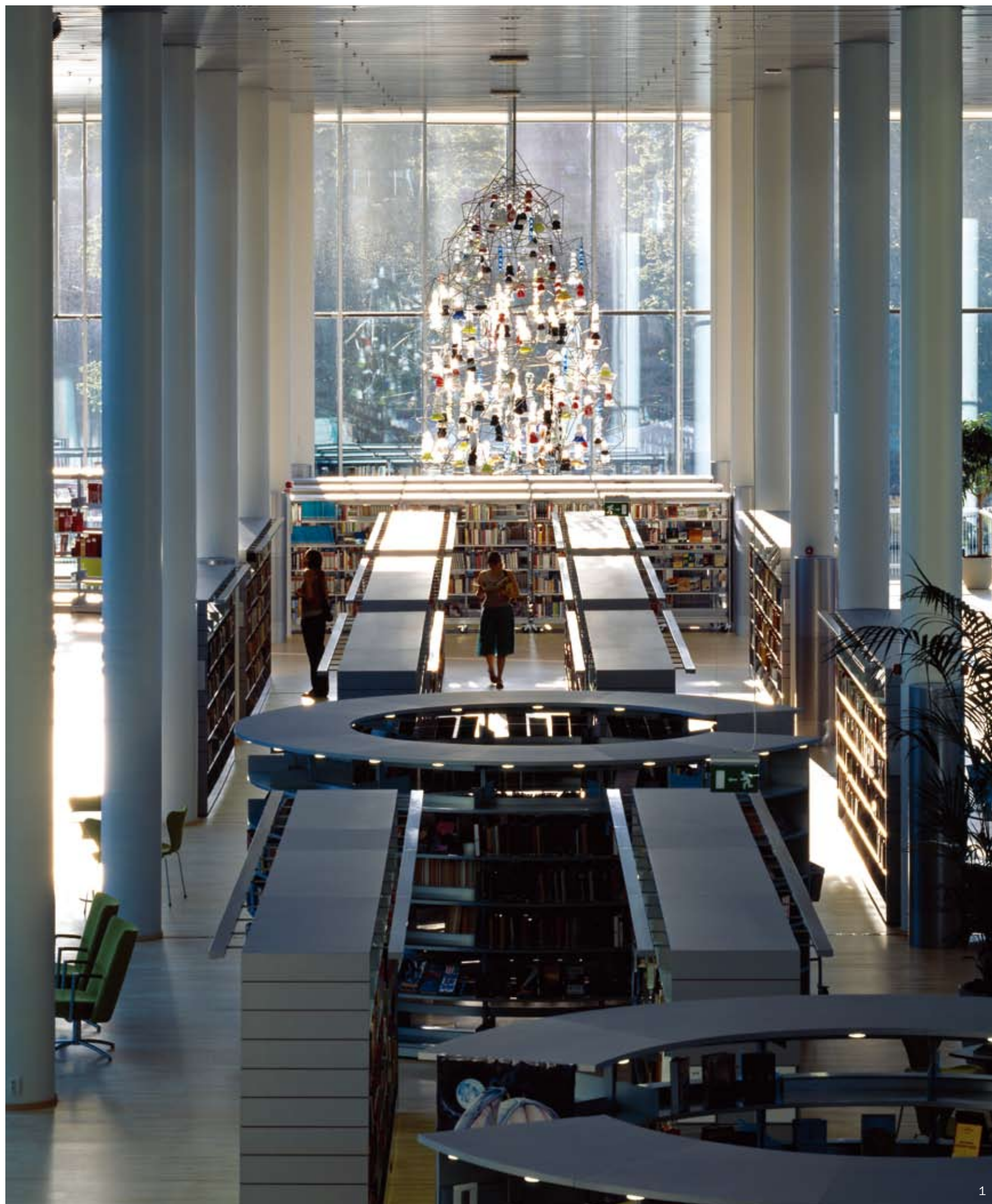
Ground floor plan



- 1. Porch
- 2. Newspaper reading room
- 3. Café
- 4. Children's section
- 5. Atrium
- 6. Children's and teenage sections
- 7. Public area
- 8. Gallery
- 9. Reception
- 10. Processing area, office and IT
- 11. Garage / storage facility



- 1. View from the Nissan River
- 2. Open structure allowing an active interplay between the columns and the trees outside



1



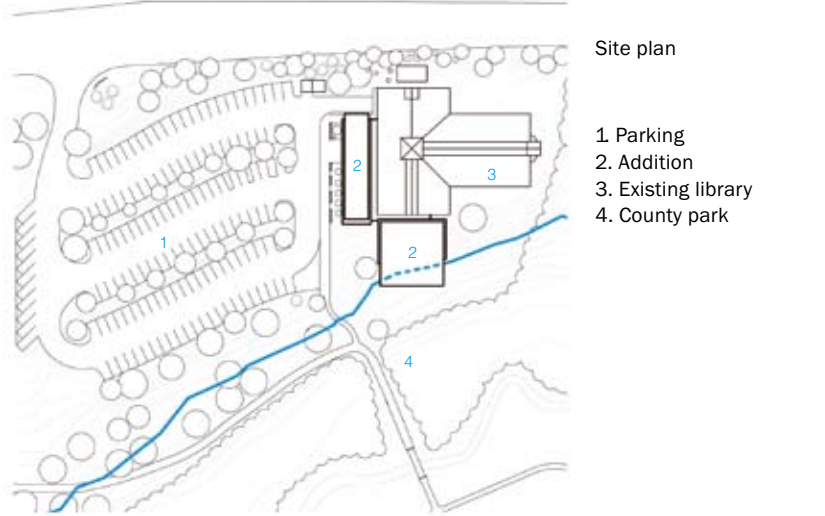
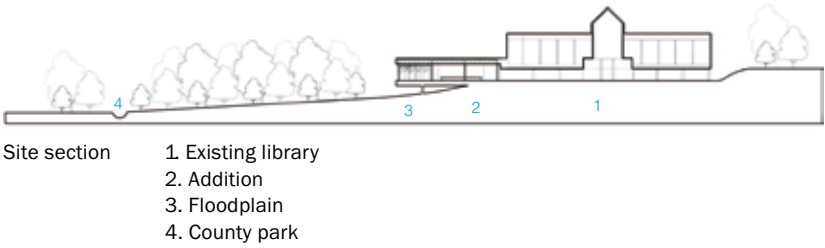
2

1. Aerial view of the reading room
2. Study area enjoying natural light and green trees outside
3. Atrium encircling the large existing chestnut tree



3

Architect: ikon.5 architects **Location:** New Castle, Delaware USA **Completion:** 2008 **GFA:** 2,323 m²
Photography: James D'Addio



- 1. Glass curtain walls
- 2. Concrete cladding with an isolation ventilated layer behind it
- 3. Rhythm of the building's envelope
- 4. Panorama at dusk



Hockessin Public Library

The expansion of the Hockessin Public Library is a floating glass pavilion in a park. The existing library site is bounded by a major road to the north, parking to the west and wetland to the east, leaving only the possibility for expansion to the south. The south side of the site overlooks a densely vegetated county park, but is restricted by a 100-year floodplain within close proximity to the existing library. To avoid this barrier, the expansion cantilevers over the floodplain and projects into the landscaped park.

Taking advantage of its suspended position on the edge of the park, the addition is made primarily of glass allowing views of the park to envelop the interior space which houses children's library and creates an exciting learning environment for families. Filled with natural day light and sights of the flora and fauna of the Delaware landscape, the children's library is also a learning laboratory of the natural environment in which it is dramatically positioned. The design of the aluminium and ceramic fritted glass enclosure shields the intense sunlight and abstractly recalls the hanging foliage and structure of the willow trees in the adjacent park.

The project expands the existing library by adding to the most heavily utilised functions: the children's collection, community meeting rooms and public access services and reference. This expansion allows for a significant increase in the overall collection and seating to meet the demands of a growing community. Joseph Tattoni, AIA, design principal of the project, cantilevered the library expansion over the floodplain to the south, using the adjacent county park as his inspiration.

The addition includes a new children's library and a community meeting room. To continue the theme of nature and sustainability Joe Tattoni left the wetlands and floodplain undisturbed and used recyclable materials such as certified cedar, recycled carpet backing, and low consumption plumbing fixtures. Not only do the children gain a reading room, but they also gain a sustainable learning laboratory of their natural environment.

Awards:
AIA Delaware Merit Award, 2010
American Architecture Award/Chicago Athenaeum, 2009
AIA New Jersey Honour Award, 2009



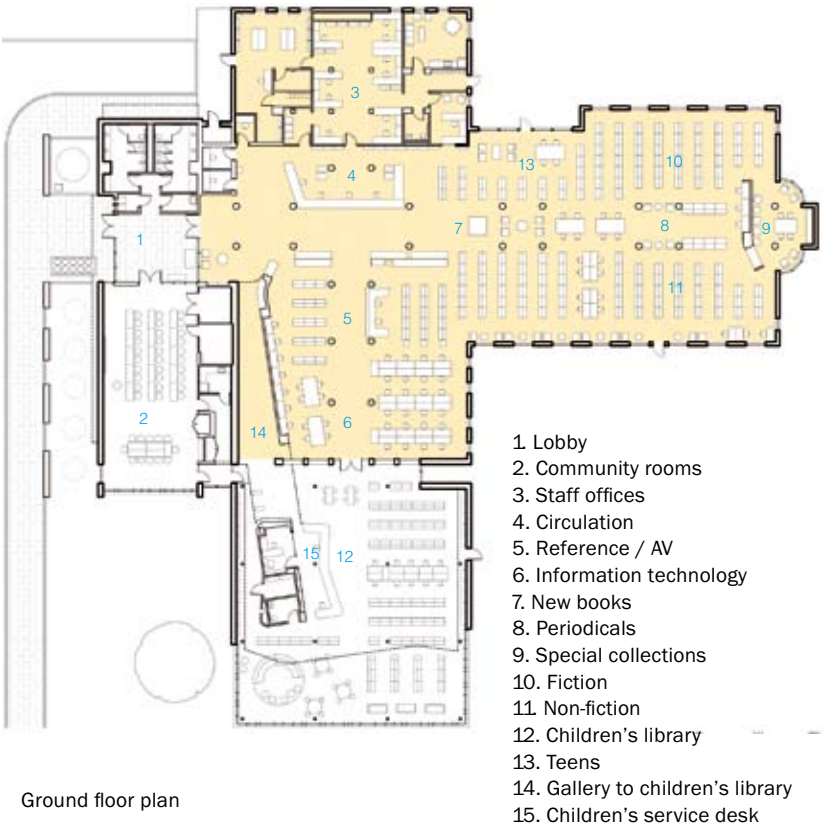


1



2

- 1. Library reception
- 2. Fiction collection



Ground floor plan



1



2

1. Children's reading area
2. A bright and warm space for children
3. Hallway in the children's area

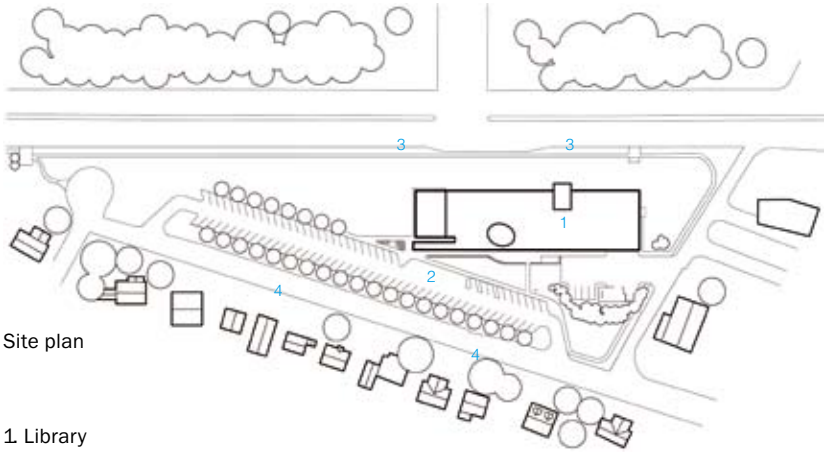


3

Architect: ikon.5 architects **Location:** New Castle, Delaware, USA **Completion:** 2009 **GFA:** 2,044 m²
Photography: James D'Addio



Elevation



Site plan

- 1. Library
- 2. Parking
- 3. Kirkwood Highway
- 4. Old Capitol Trail

- 1. View of the library from Kirkwood Highway
- 2. Sustainable materials of cement board siding and cedar trim as the primary exterior materials utilised



Kirkwood Highway Public Library

Set along a commercial shopping strip highway, Kirkwood Public Library is designed as a roadside billboard announcing the public civic function of reading, learning and exploration within. The objective was to create a new branch library for a growing diverse community in an accessible area that would serve as the iconic community centre of the neighbourhood. Shopping malls and fast food restaurants flank both sides of the site. Large graphic signs litter the highway where this library is sited and a small-scale residential neighbourhood is set one block from the highway site.

It is within this context that the Kirkwood Public Library appears as a collection of books set on the highway for the community to use. Facing the highway, the building façade of stacked horizontal cement board siding is fashioned as a series of boxes that represent the edge of books piled up on their side. The result of stark geometric abstract forms effectively signs the building and its function to the community along this aggressively commercial environment. Adjacent to the residential neighbourhood, a double-height canopy cantilevers from the façade like a page of a book, providing shelter to the front door. At the western end of the site, a main glazed two-storey reading room is covered in a cedar solar screen. The screen permits desirable views out while controlling solar gain and daylight harvesting. Internally, the programme is arranged along the length of the highway to increase visibility and to shelter the entry side from traffic.

Awards:
International Architecture Award/Chicago Athenaeum, 2010
AIA Delaware Honour Award, 2010
AIA New Jersey Honour Award, 2009





1



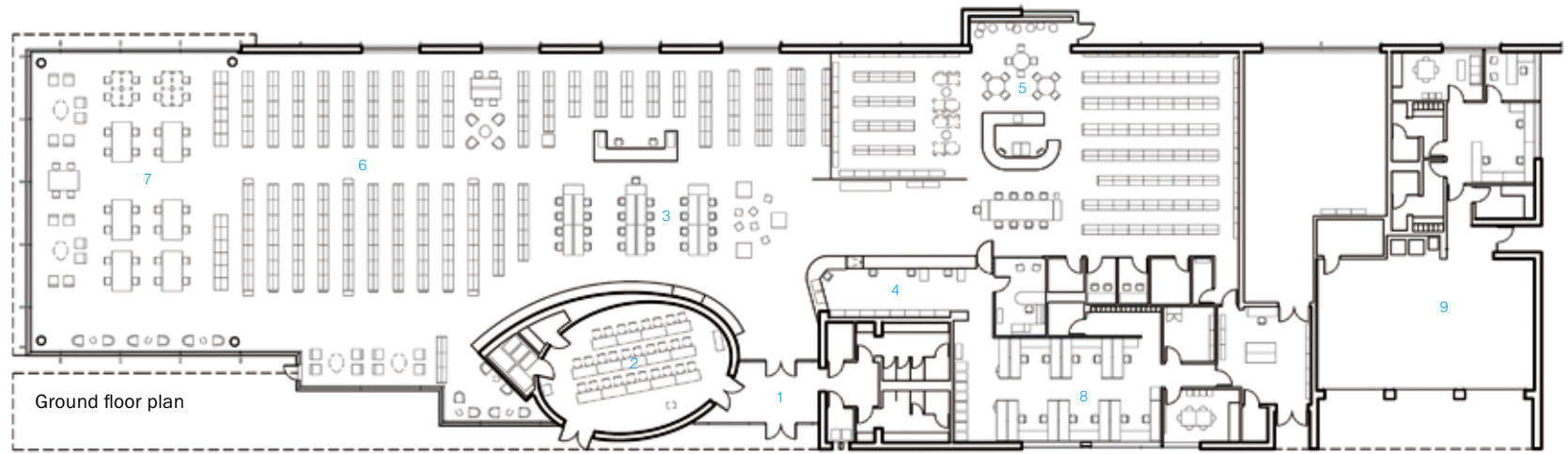
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2

- 1. Exterior view of public reading room utilising solar shades to reduce solar gain – one of a series of sustainable design elements employed
- 2. View of library from the parking entrance
- 3. Cement fibre board siding used to create a pattern like that of stacked books

- 1. Entrance
- 2. Community meeting room
- 3. Technology work stations
- 4. Access services
- 5. Children's library
- 6. Fiction / non-fiction
- 7. Main reading room
- 8. Staff room
- 9. Emergency medical services





1. Main public reading room maximising natural daylight and views
2. Library's configuration allowing all seats to have access to natural light and views
3. Children's library concealed by a translucent feature wall from the circulation desk



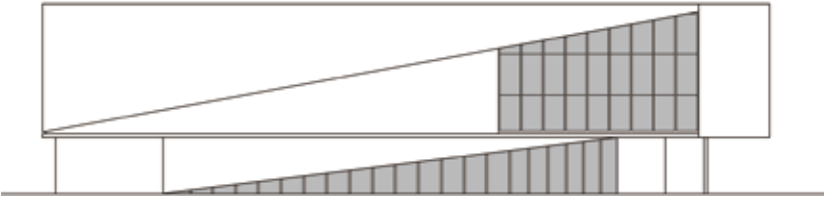
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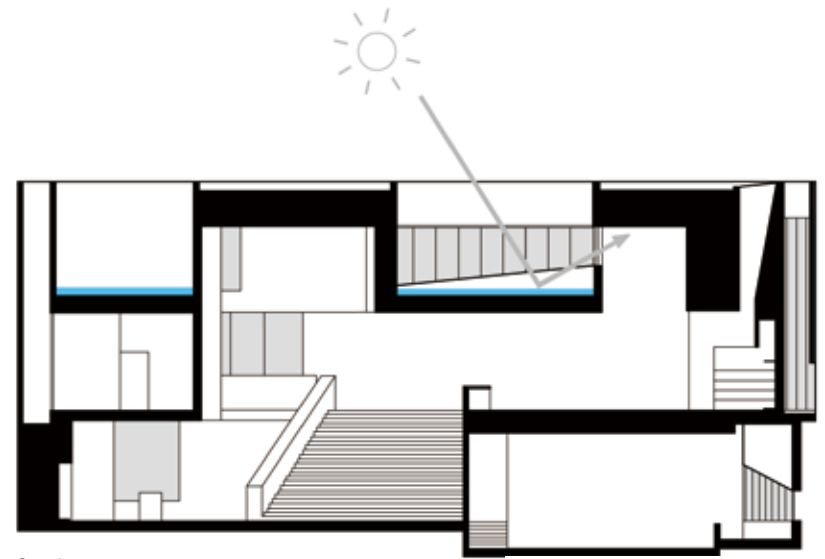
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1. Casual reading bay of the children's library
2. Children's library incorporating cement board siding and day lighting to create a bright and playful environment

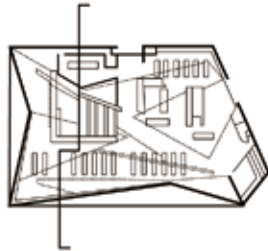
Architect: Dominique Coulon Architects **Location:** Anzin, France **Completion:** 2010 **GFA:** 1,750 m²
Photography: Eugeni Pons



Northwest elevation



Section



1. North façade
2. Vestibule window



Library in Anzin

The building reveals its preciousness at first sight. Its pure, sophisticated geometry situates it as a public building. The deliberate areas of transparency reveal its content. The reading rooms present the building to the town in the manner of an invitation. The multimedia library is covered with large white veils that reflect the light. The building asserts its lightness, like an origami. The successive folds and flaps repeat this image. It is white, almost immaterial, like the mere projection of a concept, yet it is brimming with the life that constitutes it beyond its physical limits.

On the inside, there is abundant, uniform light. The space is open and fluid, offering optimal flexibility. The lighting effect produced by the tall gaps that appear to float in space is truly beautiful. The volumes are independent and geometrically free, giving the whole a wonderfully poetic feel.

Alvaro Siza's 1993 master plan – with this state theatre at its heart – attempts to restructure Montreuil's centre, located east of Paris, following a crude refurbishment in the 1970s. Dominique Coulon has designed a building which mediates between the city centre – with its axis oriented to the Paris Bastille – and the rural environs.

It is like a knot which joins spatial, geographical, urban and symbolic dimensions. Coulon's notion of city and architecture becomes clear in the dense building massing, which conceals a secret, but has spaces which are open for exchange and communication, as well. The building complex, closed like a fist, has its correspondence in a series of spaces which expand and contract on the interior, reminiscent of the implausible spaces Alice in Wonderland traversed.

In the entrance area, the ceiling above the reception desk has multiple folds, similar to a geological zone of convergence, where tectonic plates are on a collision course but manage to slide past each other. In the stairway, gyrating concrete volumes are bathed in Caravaggioesque light.

Dark and light, empty and full, this red space expands horizontally, ultimately leading to the auditorium, and then contracts until it becomes lost in the darkness of the foyer. Breaches in the building envelope occasionally offer up views to the city and allow daylight to penetrate deep into the space.





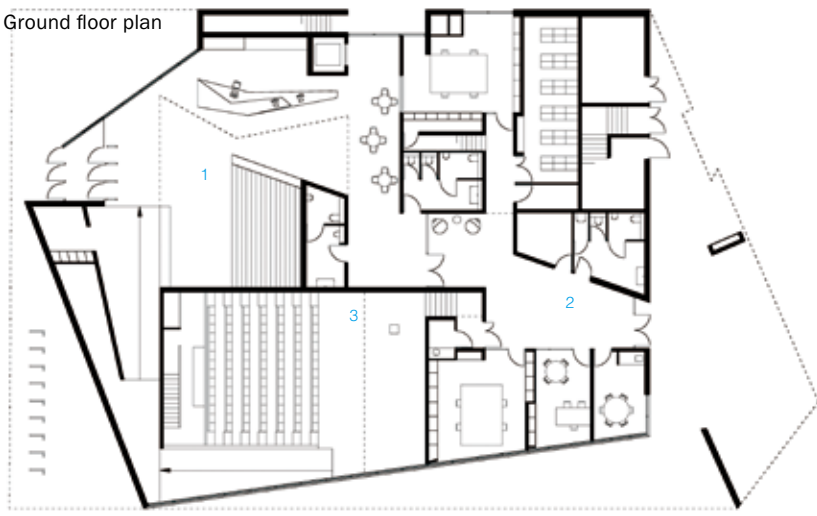
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1. Northeast view
2. Rear façade
3. Entrance

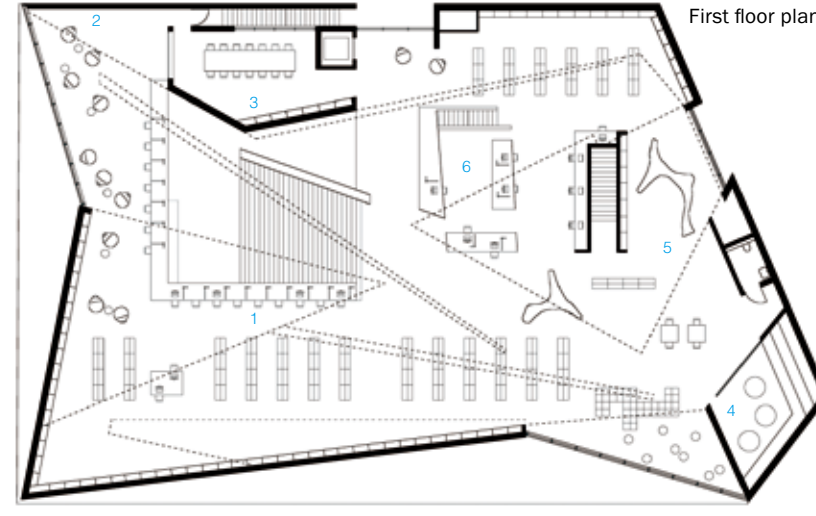


2

3



1. Entrance hall
2. Administration
3. 100-seat auditorium



1. Lecture spaces
2. News space
3. Working room
4. Heure du conte ("Story time")
5. Youth space
6. Information space





1. Reception
2. Information desk



1



2

- 1. Steps
- 2. View from the reading area
- 3. Open library space



3



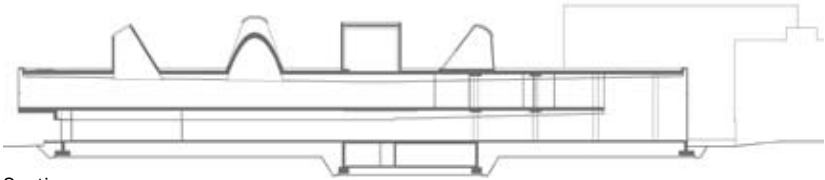
1. Bookshelves
2. Documentary

Lohja Main Library

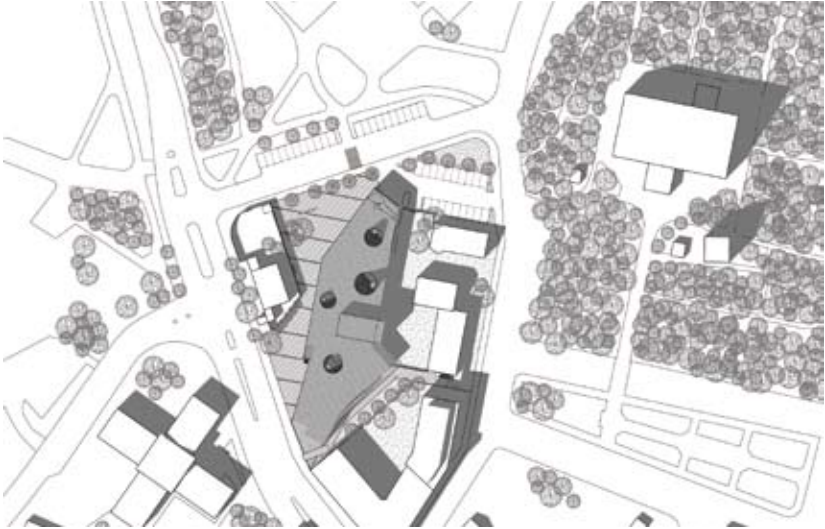
Architect: Architects Lahdelma & Mahlamäki **Location:** Lohja, Finland **Completion:** 2007 **Photography:** Jussi Tiainen



West elevation



Section
剖面图



Site plan

- 1. Panorama
- 2. Front view
- 3. Long red brick walls



Architects Lahdelma & Mahlamäki won the open competition concerning the Lohja Main Library. The design was continued based to the winning entry “Johdanto” (the Prologue).

The new library building is harmoniously integrated into the cultural campus area, which holds within the Church Saint Lawrence, the Hall of Laurentius, the Music Academy of Länsi-Uusimaa and the Academy of Hiisi. The building is located on the eastern side of the competition area, allowing the walking through to the park.

The functions of the building are divided between two floors. Due to the proximity of the old church, the library building was kept low, which was the main concept in the design. The public spaces on the first floor are spaciouly widened with the help of differently sized skylights.

The long walls of the building are of red brick. The inner spaces open through the gables towards the church and the town centre. Proverbs from the Lohja area are printed on the glasses of these openings.

The new library building is part of the “cultural campus” in the centre of Lohja. In the spirit of its competition title Johdanto (Introduction), its architecture directs the flow of pedestrian traffic towards the cultural complex and into the library. Its principal material, red brick, integrates the building into the existing civic architecture; in the interior, the red brick walls delineate the open spatial composition as one entity and guide the eyes towards its primary aspects, the town centre and the church. The library is literally built for its location.

Awards:
Nominee of Finland for the Mies van der Rohe Prize, 2007





1. Night view
2. West façade
3. Back view



Ground floor plan



1. Entrance
2. Reading room
3. Lounge
4. Classroom
5. Media room
6. Group study
7. Conference room



1. Seating area by the glazing wall
2. Open spatial composition as one entity



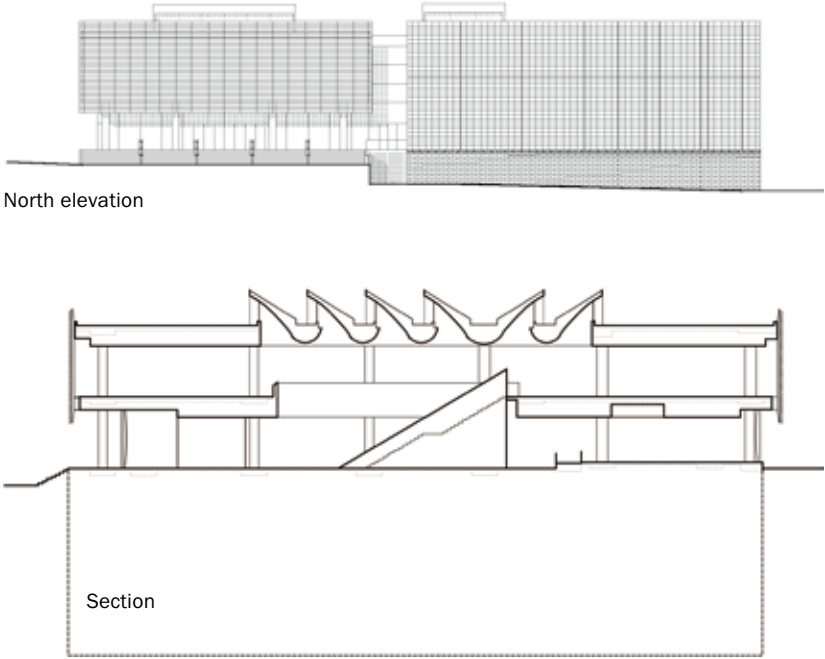


1. Lounge
2. Public spaces on the first floor with skylights



2

Architect: fjmt **Location:** Blacktown, New South Wales, Australia **Completion:** 2005 **Photography:** John Gollings



1. View of the Max Webber Library from the Civic Square
2. Front view of the library
3. Continuous façade of profiled aluminium louvres



Max Webber Library

The new library at Blacktown created an opportunity to re-establish and reinforce the public realm within a city environment continually dominated by the shopping mall, car park and visual pollution of advertising, creating a sense of place and embodying the public values and aspirations of the community in juxtaposition of the no place of the ubiquitous “Shopping Mall” and associated zones for consumption. Interestingly it also gave an opportunity to develop what is becoming the most meaningful 21st-century public building, the contemporary library.

The approach was to create an open and inviting public building, transparent and welcoming. It is to express the sense of open equitable access to information that the contemporary library offers, and also to create a place for a broad range of community activities and gatherings. Hence there are children’s areas, youth areas, flexible function spaces, exhibition areas and a café integrated within this public building.

Importantly whilst the architecture is open, inviting and transparent, it is also to a degree “silent”, such that it offers a contrast within the “noise” of commercial/retail advertising and development, potentially offering perhaps a little peace. At the same time fjmt sought to create certain “monumentality”; giving significance and dignity to this important public place and the community values it embodies.

The architecture is conceived as two simple volumes, one solid of terracotta panels containing the support and service spaces and sitting firmly on the ground, and a second transparent of light metallic louvres and glass containing the public rooms and reading spaces “hovering” above the ground. Both these volumes are sited on a brick podium that “grows” out of the natural clay of the site and adjusts to the differing levels whilst positioning the library in an honorific location within the new square.

Architecturally, an “interior world” is created, separate from the busy streets and shopping; a warm and peaceful haven allowing space for the visitor to “slow” and just be. This interior is created through a composition of natural light, natural materials and form. A series of strong and distinctive forms, elliptical void, triangular stair and cubic volume give a sense of significance and honour to the interior, while the strong horizontal extension and transparency, together with the gentle curving forms of the light baffles and skylights, and give a complementing openness and looseness. Natural light is sculptured through a series of carefully profiled baffles and skylights to gently reveal and enhance their forms and materiality, creating a glow and lightness within the whole library. Natural materials within the interior of timber, brick and stone are intended to create not only warmth but also a depth to the surfaces and spaces.

Perhaps the most important element of the interior of the library is the presence of natural daylight and even occasionally a thin slice of sunlight.





1

Externally, a continuous façade of profiled aluminium louvres automatically adjust in relation to the position of the sun or level of glare to filter, shade and reflect natural light throughout the reading spaces of the library.

The new library through its simple and yet monumental form, transparency and openness, warmth and natural materials, is intended to simultaneously give honour and significance, as well as access and invitation to the knowledge, information, values and opportunity that the contemporary library offers and embodies.

Awards:

RAIA NSW Chapter, Premier's Award, 2007

RAIA NSW Chapter, Commendation (Public Building), 2006

Illuminating Engineering Society of Australia & New Zealand Merit Award, (NSW Division), 2006



2

1. Glow and lightness within the whole library
2. Flexible function space for up to 200 people
3. Children's play area



3

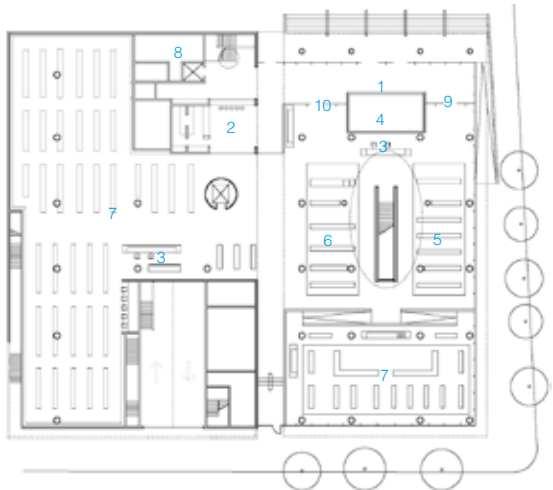


1



2

- 1. Relation of the ground floor (containing the support and service spaces) and first floor (containing the public rooms and reading spaces)
- 2. Natural materials within the interior of timber, brick and stone adopted to create not only warmth, but also a depth to the surfaces and spaces
- 3. A series of strong and distinctive forms, elliptical void, triangular stair and cubic volume, giving a sense of significance and honour to the interior



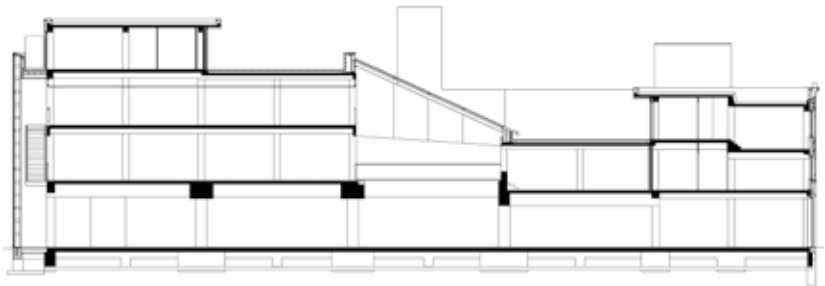
- 1. Foyer
- 2. Café
- 3. Customer service
- 4. Book return
- 5. Newspapers, magazines & new acquisitions
- 6. AV collection
- 7. Children's area
- 8. Amenities
- 9. Entrance
- 10. Exit

Ground floor plan

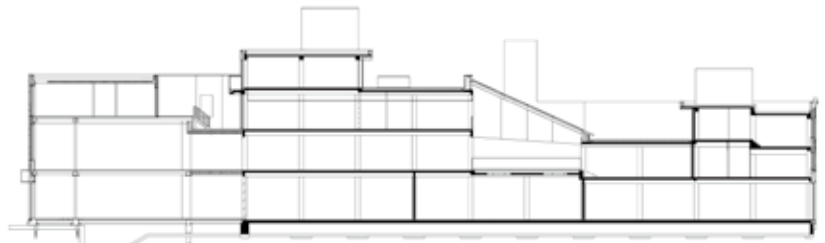


3

Architect: Dok Architecten **Location:** Delft, The Netherlands **Completion:** 2007 **Photography:** Arjen Schmitz & Jan Bartelsen



Sections



Sections

Media Library

At the entrance a glass construction of ten metres high is placed, at two metres in front of the existing front, as a maximum “welcoming gesture”. This way the Media Library (Mediatheek) presents itself on the Cultuurplein (Culture Square), making the indoor activities visible from the outside as well. Behind this glass front stairways have been placed. All of this, combined with the business of the square on the ground floor, makes for a very lively picture.

The main architectural and spatial intervention in the building has been the realisation of a lightway. This is made by a void and a striking glass roof, covering the breadth of the building, and giving light to a great depth – into the very heart of the building. As a result, a spatial connection between the different floors and functions is brought into being. This makes the building and its interior understandable at just one glance. The lightway consists of a steel structure, and ends in a separately standing element: a plan by light designer Svend Panjer. The lightway functions as a clarifying and structuring element. Its light and inviting character seduces visitors to find their way to the other functions.

The pleasant atmosphere created by the lightway can also be found in a grand café, and the reading café on the first department benefits from it as well. Here the visitors may enjoy a lunch or cappuccino while leafing through the latest magazines or newspapers. The Media Library in Delft, having an espresso bar of its own, as well as an open culture stage has rightly become a meeting place, at which there's a culture of reading, learning, watching and listening.

This building's outward appearance has been adapted to its new requirements, but its inner character has remained the same. A spatial transformation has taken place, instead of demolishing and building up again from scratch. It is a design approach starting from the idea of durability, and a stroke of luck for existing buildings in the future.

In each department of the Media Library, colour and organising elements make for distinction and identification. One important point of orientation is the orange block, that appears in similar positions on each and every floor, and contains a lift as well as rest room facilities. In the proximity of this “orange thread”, yellow information counters have been placed. Apart from this, every department has its own distinguishable colour:

- Blue for the information square on the ground floor
- Green for the youth department
- Red stands for “Romance”
- Brown for “Music & Film”
- Neutral grey for “Art”
- The offices are purple

1. Giant glass construction at the entrance
2. Façade along the street
3. View from Culture Square



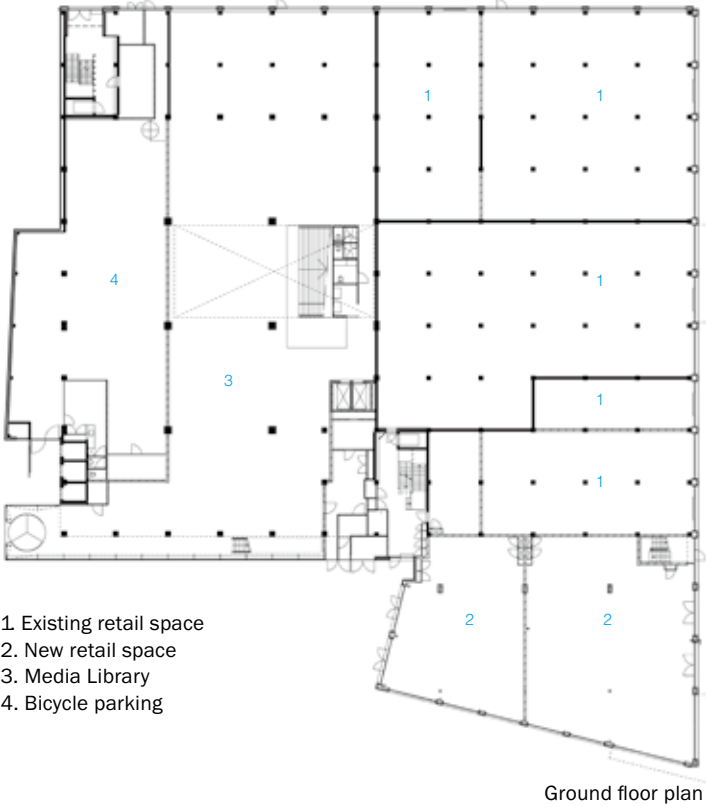
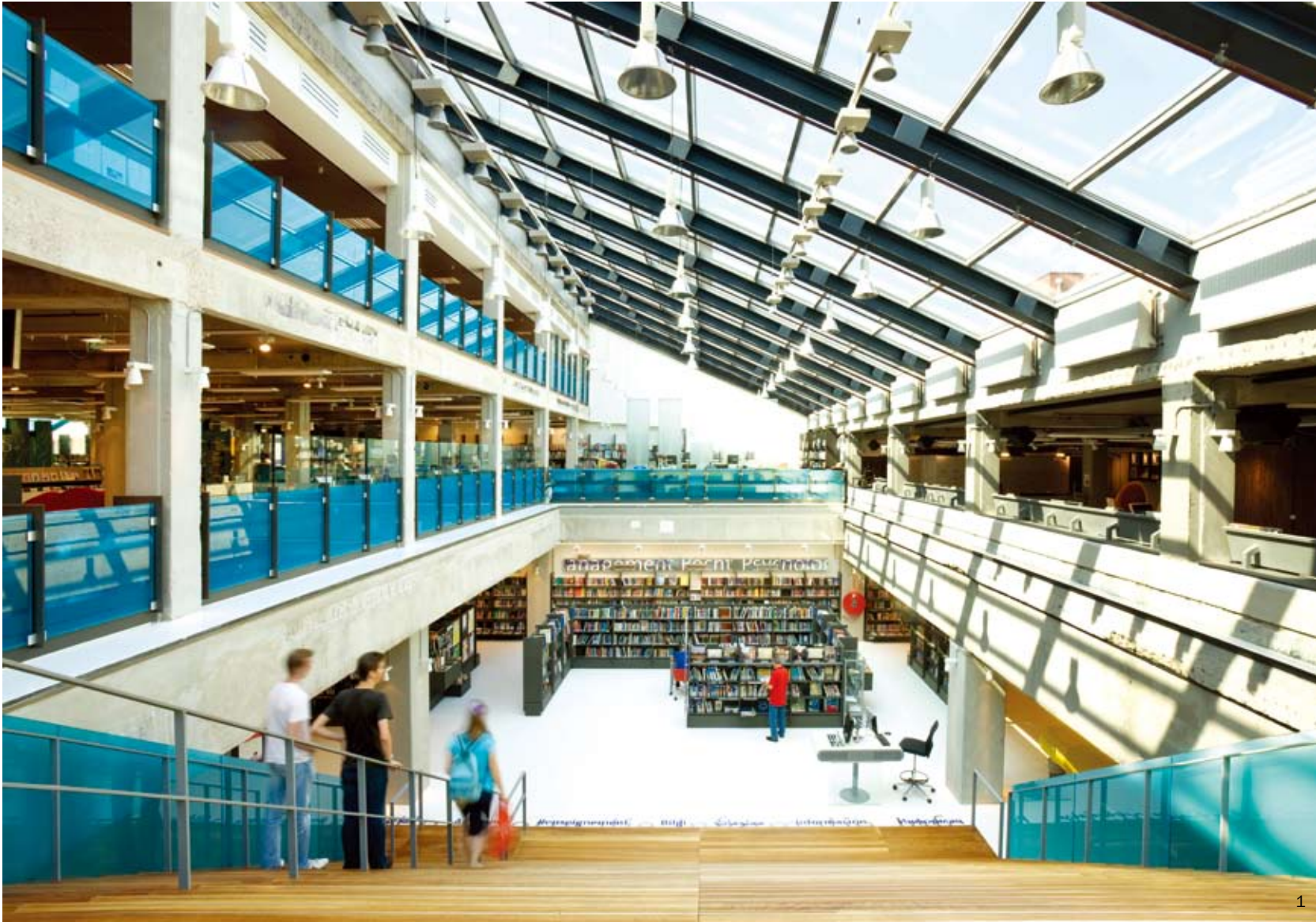
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2

3





- 1. Existing retail space
- 2. New retail space
- 3. Media Library
- 4. Bicycle parking

Ground floor plan

- 1. Central square with glass roof and grand stairs
- 2. Aerial view of the information square on the ground floor
- 3. Ground floor staircase
- 4. Reading area





1



2



4



3

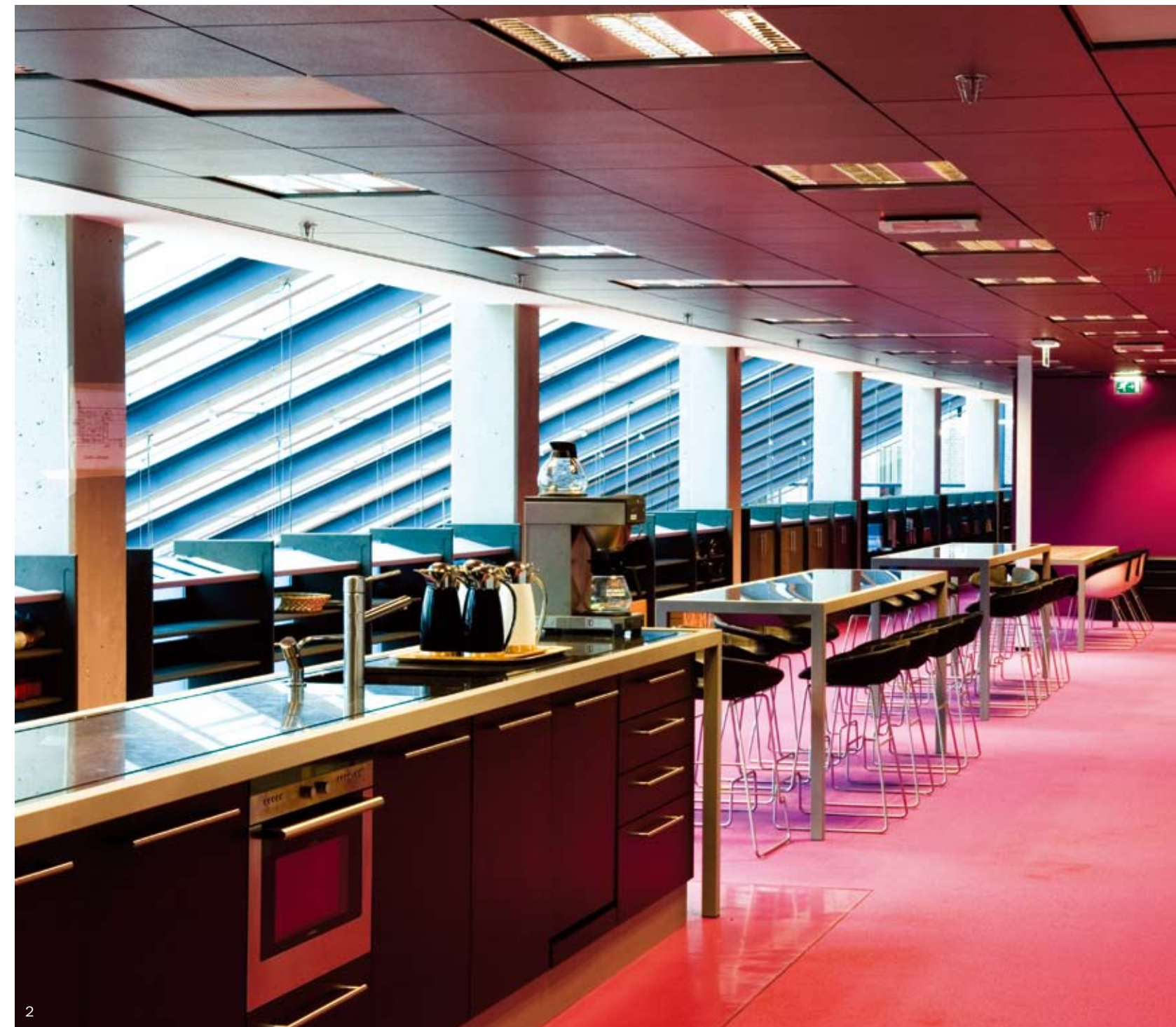
1. Yellow information counters
2. Cute chairs
3. Cute chairs with computers
4. Casual resting area
5. Computer table under the exposed concrete ceiling



5



1



2

- 1. Floor-to-ceiling windows allowing in natural light
- 2. Dining room
- 3. Space enclosed by shelves



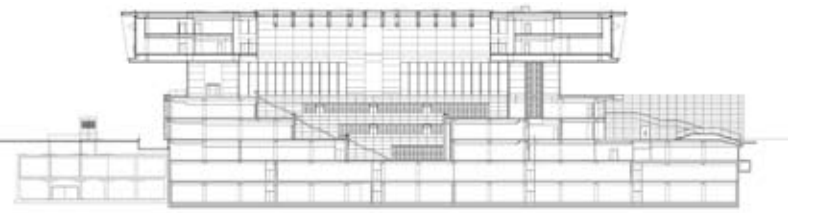
1. Red reading room



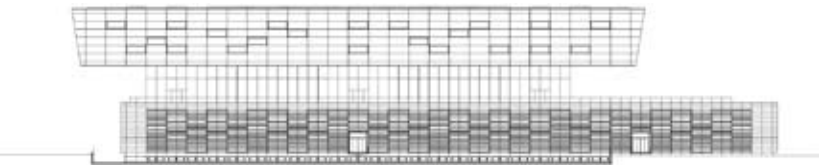
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2. Blue reading room

Architect: KSP Jürgen Engel Architekten **Location:** Beijing, China **Completion:** 2008 **GFA:** 77,000 m² (extension) **Photography:** Hans Schlupp & National Library of China



Longitudinal section



South elevation

National Library of China

The task was to extend the existing library by 77,000 square metres in order to accommodate approximately 12 million books, some 12,000 people per day who visit the National Library. An important future-oriented part of the extension of the existing library is the “Digital Library”. Unparalleled in its historical and cultural significance, the “Si Ku Quan Shu” collection is also housed in the new building. The Si Ku Quan Shu is the collection of manuscripts, produced on the orders of Chinese Emperor Ch’ein Lung (1736 – 1795) of the Ch’ing dynasty (1644 – 1912). During his reign he had made copies of all documents relating to Chinese culture, effectively preserving for the modern age this valuable wealth of knowledge spanning thousands of years.

The KSP Engel und Zimmermann design is based on this collection, which is housed in the building’s base. Located around the base on several levels, recalling archaeological layers of culture, is the large space containing the contemporary library with reading rooms, reference works and a reference library. Above this on the top floor, under a roof that seems almost to float, is the digital library – synonym for the future, global communication and networking. This simple symbolism of linking together past, present and future, as inter-reliant and simultaneously merging elements, lends the design cogency.

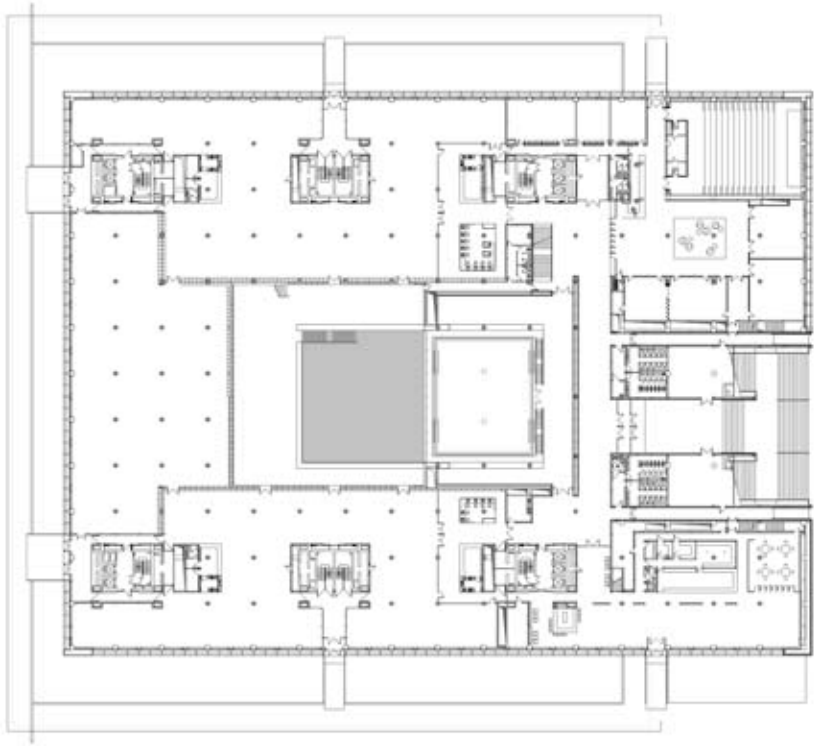
The enormous rectangular building ensemble, measuring 90 by 119 metres, is horizontally organised, and developed. The library is surrounded by an austere laid-out garden, which serves to further underline the building’s well-defined appearance. It is through the garden and a geometrically arranged grove at the entrance to the library that the visitor approaches the building. The entrance to the library is via broad steps set between two lower building sections, which lead into the third storey. From here the visitor has a view out over the entire library and into the extensive steel structure spanning the roof. This structure rests on the base at six points, and these support the roof, while leaving the remainder of the large space open. The various levels merge into each other; rows of books alternate with reading areas; stairs and escalators provide access to the various storeys; it is possible to look into the digital library on the top floor. There is daylight everywhere and the inward-looking focus typical of most libraries has been deliberately avoided. As the centre and core of the library, the glazed vault for the Si Ku Quan Shu collection of China’s written cultural heritage, bound in wooden panels, is always visible, and transparent. Looking at the library form outside, the upper two storeys have the appearance of a large book with gently rounded contours, held by slanting supports, which towers over the storeys below.

- 1. Panorama by night
- 2. Surrounding context with busy traffic
- 3. The extensive steel structure spanning the roof
- 4. Close-up view





1. Aerial view
2. Back view
3. Façade detail

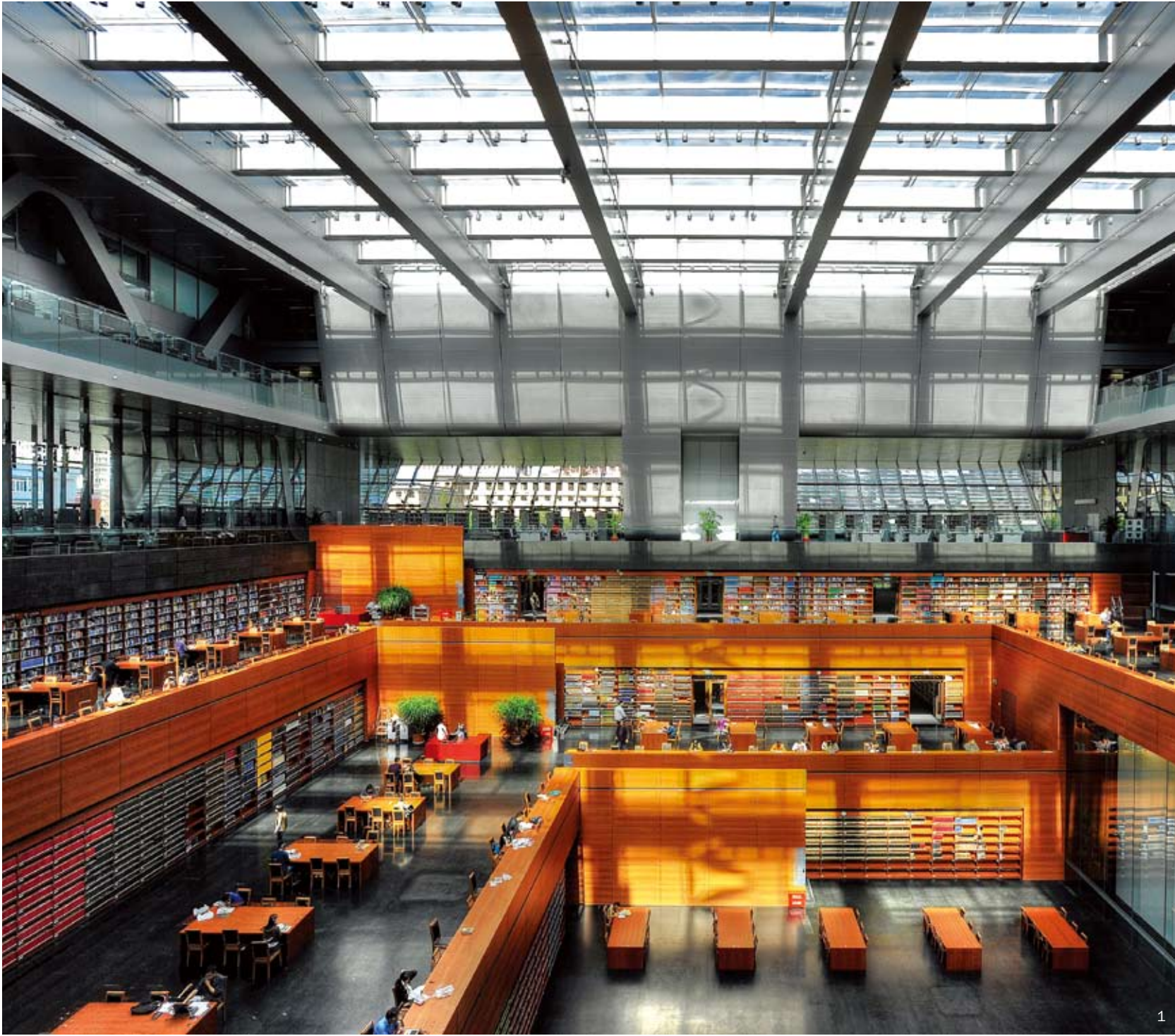


Ground floor plan





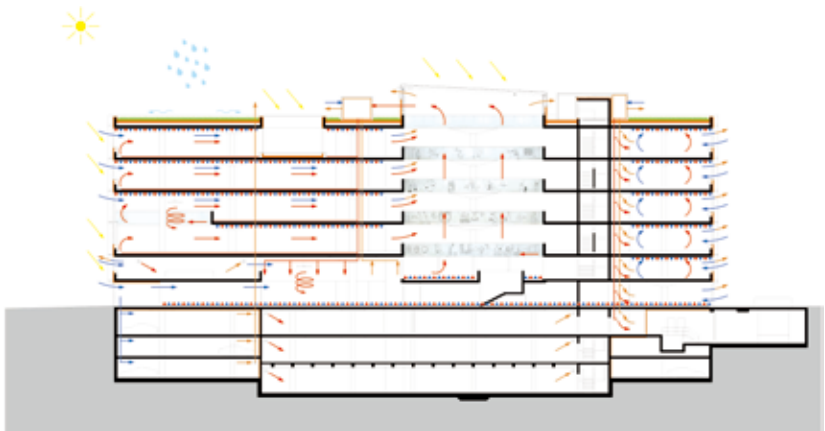
1. Reading room
2. Grand lobby with book collection and different seating areas
3. The centre of the library – Si Ku Quan Shu collection



1. Five-storey central atrium
2. View of the atrium from upper level



Architect: Projektil Architekti **Location:** Prague, Czech Republic **Completion:** 2009 **GFA:** 11,740 m²
Photography: Andrea Thiel Lhotáková



Energy scheme



Site plan

1. East façade viewed from the green park
2. View from northwest
3. West façade viewed from the social space



1

National Technical Library

There are some sources of the architectural concept of the building. Firstly there is a spatial context influence which involves the historical urbanistic plans for the whole area as well as its present significance. Secondly the concept is the architects' answer to the idea of the institution and especially to the role of the library in today's society. That is why on the ground floor there is a minimum of the library itself but all the complementary services such as the cafeteria, exhibition hall and congress hall. Next, the chosen shape and material should resolve one of crucial questions of how to be modern and monumental at the same time.

Besides, what is important is that the building from the very beginning was formed to be an energy-saving one and the shape showed it clearly. Part of the concept is as well the use of the area around the building – social space on the west and a green park on the east. Finally, the building was designed to include the interior and the graphic design following the concept “the technological schoolbook”, so a lot of things (for example installations) are knowingly shown for better understanding on how the building was designed and functions.

The building has three underground and six aboveground floors. Underground there is book storage, technology, supply and a parking lot. On the ground floor and the first floor there is the main entrance to the library and all complementary facilities – conference hall, exhibition hall, cafeteria, bookshop and cloak room. All of them are around the entry hall which is the main place for meeting people not just from the library but from the whole university campus. That is the reason why the building has not one but four entrances to all sides. The idea was to give to the campus not just a library, but a needed public place as well where all the students could meet together.

Additionally, there is a night study room on the ground floor so the building can provide 24-hour service without needing to open all the building during the night. In the middle of the ground floor is the entrance to the library and first info desk. The visitors then follow up to the first floor and the atrium hall with the main desk. The atrium is naturally lit through the skylight and it is the main space of the whole building. Then the library floors follow from second to fifth. The setup is similar. On the north side of the floor there is the administration section. In the public part there are the study places and study rooms of different sizes next to the façade, followed by book shelves in the darker part of the floor and finally an info desk and other study places around the atrium with natural light.

Awards:
Grand Prix Architects Award, 2010



2



3



1 Atrium hall

1. Atrium hall
2. Dappling light in the atrium hall



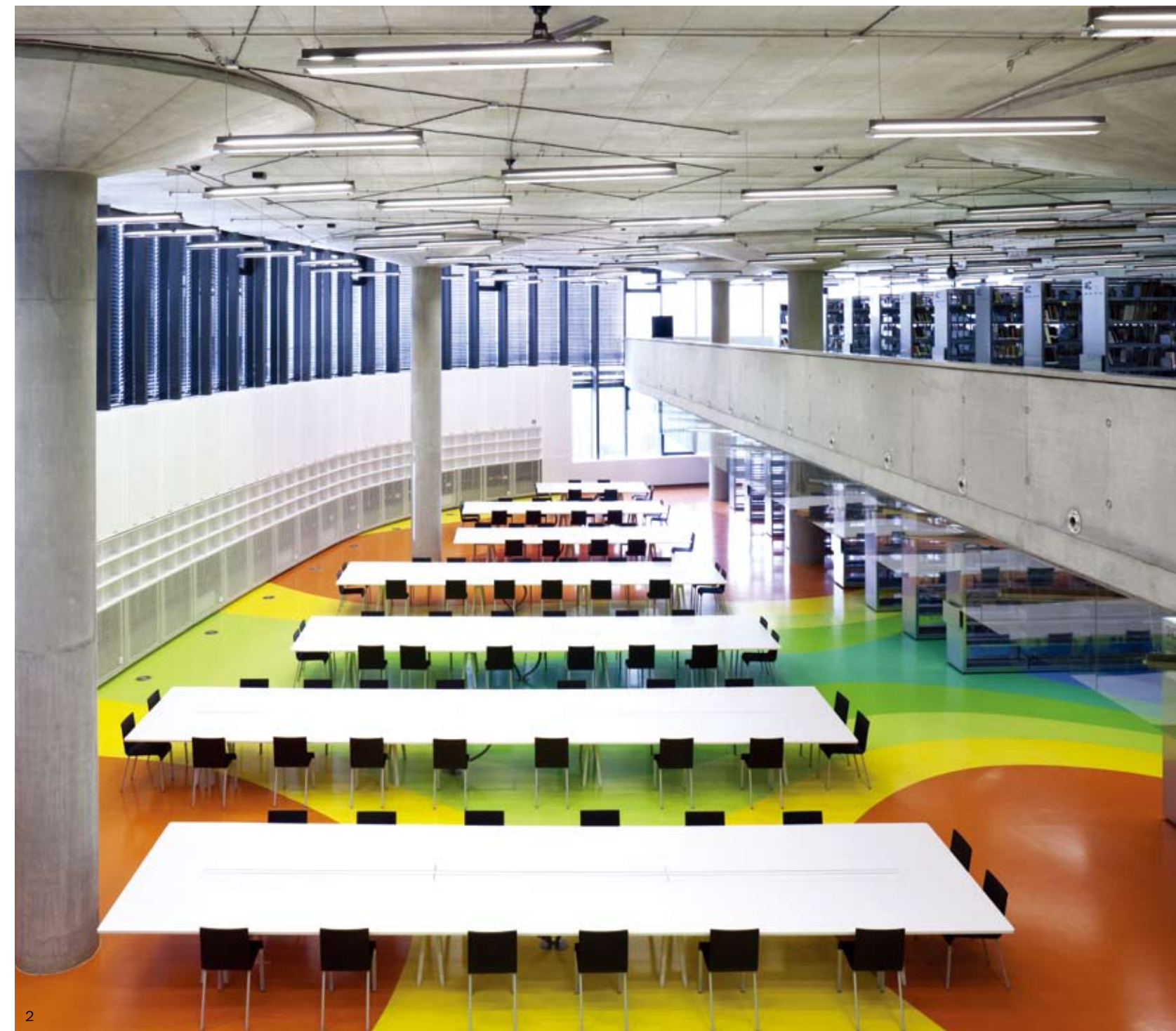
Ground floor plan

1. Entrance
2. Lobby
3. Library entrance
4. Conference hall
5. Exhibition hall
6. Café "technika"
7. Night study room
8. Staff entrance
9. Cloak room
10. City library
11. Bookshop



1

1. Interior / exterior connection
2. Study area



2



Ground floor lobby

Architect: Ryder Architecture **Location:** Newcastle, UK **Completion:** 2009 **GFA:** 8,300 m² **Photography:** Ryder Architecture & Tim Crocker

Newcastle City Library

The City Library is part of the £40.2M Newcastle Libraries PFI project which also includes a new community library for the Newcastle district of High Heaton. The City Library opened in June 2009 and is both a civic landmark and a meeting place. It is a highly transparent building encouraging people to visit and enjoy.

The brief was to create a building to “delight and inspire” as well as a model for C21 library facilities. It is a destination venue with spaces for reading, learning, research, relaxing, meeting and working, inspiring local, civic and regional pride. As well as accommodating the historic Newcastle Collection, music area and reference browsing, the library provides exhibition and performance space.

One of the main design features is the steel frame grid which forms the east (John Dobson Street) elevation. The concept behind the grid feature is that it is a giant bookcase for the city. Artist Kathryn Hodgkinson has created the screen printed artwork “Four Questions” which runs across the glazing. It is inspired by interviews with over 1,000 Newcastle residents about their fears and hopes, what makes them happy and what they would change. The six-storey library has a four-storey entrance atrium from New Bridge Street and a second entrance from Princess Square. An observation deck on the top floor with pink Arne Jacobsen Swan and Egg chairs gives visitors new views south, east and west across the city.

Materials have been chosen to represent the civic stature of the building, its immediate physical and cultural context and its contemporary nature. The plinth and stair cores are constructed from polished masonry block solidly grounding the building into the public realm. The south (New Bridge Street) façade is fully glazed curtain walling protected and animated by aluminium louvres at high level. The north (Lisle Street) and west (Princess Square) elevations are a combination of curtain walling and metal rainscreen cladding providing a contemporary, modular façade.

Wayfinding uses vibrant colour coding which is also part of the new branding. All the internal signage uses Isocpeur font. Slate panels on the walls of the Newcastle Collection are the original slate flooring from the previous library. Portland stone is reused for display plinths. Carpet tiles on levels 3 to 6 contain a high percentage of recycled material. The library achieves BREEAM rating "very good". Solar panels on the roof generate electricity to pre-heat the domestic hot water. A rainwater recycling system provides the water to flush the toilets.



East elevation



Cross section

1. Upward view
2. Panorama by night
3. West façade



1



2



3



1



2



3

- 1. Southeast view
- 2. South façade
- 3. South façade detail
- 4. Interior view from stairs



4

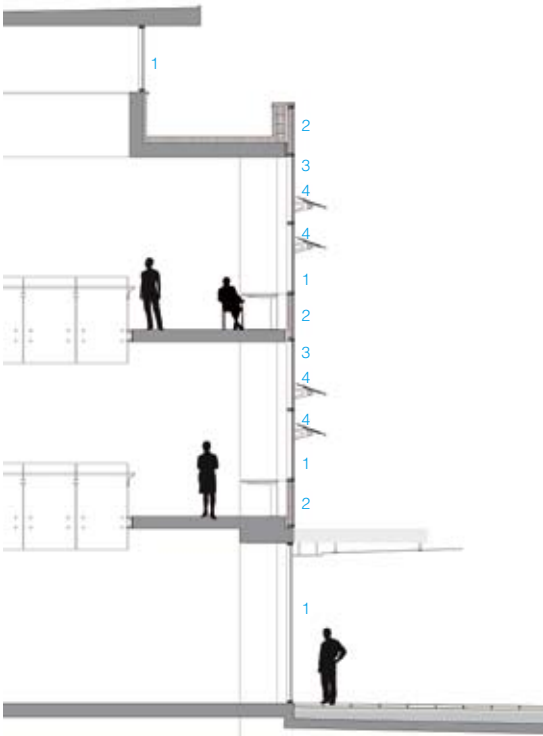
Awards:
RIBA Awards, Architectural Excellence, 2010
Public/Private Finance, Best Community/User Involvement in a Project, 2010
RICS North East, Best Community Project, 2010
LABC North Awards, Best Community Project and Best Education Building, 2010
Association for Consultancy and Engineering Awards, Building Structures, 2010
Lord Mayor's Design Awards, New Building/Landscape, 2009
Mixology North Awards, Best Interior Design for a Public Building, 2009
Public Library Building Awards UK and Republic of Ireland, Innovation Award/
Mary Finch Accessibility Award/Delegates' Choice Award, 2009



First floor plan

- 1. Non-fiction
- 2. Self service loans and returns
- 3. Sales
- 4. Information
- 5. Agencies
- 6. Dispatch
- 7. Service bay

Architect: Diamond and Schmitt Architects & CEI Architecture Planning Interiors **Location:** North Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada **Completion:** 2008 **GFA:** 3,350 m² **Photography:** Tom Arban



Wall section

- 1. Clear glass
- 2. Spandrel panel
- 3. Glass with ceramic frit
- 4. Glass brise-soleils

- 1. Signage detail
- 2. Solar panel detail
- 3. Panorama by day
- 4. Panorama by night



North Vancouver City Library

Centrally located in a visible and accessible site, the North Vancouver City Library is a landmark building serving the city's vibrant community. The new library doubles the capacity of the former library. It also serves as a community meeting place, a compliment to the adjacent City Hall and the surrounding business district.

The new North Vancouver City Library is located directly across the street from City Hall. The street space between the buildings, formerly used as angle parking for City Hall visitors, has been redeployed as the main civic plaza for the city. This expansive plaza offers a wireless café terrace, market promenade, amphitheatre and outdoor reading rooms, providing a unique and welcoming gathering place for library users and the community of North Vancouver. Both the building and plaza are designed to take advantage of the spectacular views of the Lions Gate Bridge, Burrard Inlet and the North Shore Mountains.

In order to best serve the interests of the library user, the new space was planned and designed to maximise intuitive way-finding skills and accommodate natural patterns of social interaction. As a means of maximising the library user's time, a special high circulation area was configured at the east end of the building beside the main plaza-level entrance. This area, referred to as the "hot zone", is set up for a variety of speedy activities, such as self book check-out, returns and hold desks, as well as display areas showcasing new materials for brief perusal. A café is also located in this area to engage and provide a focal point for passers-by.

The new library is so much more than a book lending library. The generous public spaces provide comfortable seats on all levels, a variety of learning commons – quiet study, tutorial rooms, moveable tables and chairs. The library is built around a customer-focused organisation – from the welcome desk, the public service desks that by design encourage a "roving" staff concept where staff are out on the public floor engaged with the customers. The building has been designed with flexible spaces that can adapt to the changing needs of the community as well as new trends in technology, and with common spaces that can be transformed for a variety of uses. These spaces include a business and career centre and wired gathering spaces that accommodate community programmes such as computer literacy workshops.

As a community place, the library is an outstanding success. The quiet study hall and other study spaces are always brimming with people. Parents and children enjoy going to the library as an outing; they sit together reading, play reading readiness games on the computer and enjoy the toy chest of educational games. In general, community members are finding a chair to read and relax in while taking advantage of the light-filled space that provides vistas of the city's natural beauty at every opportunity.

Awards:

Architectural Institute of British Columbia, Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia Award in Architecture, Merit Award, 2009





1



2

- 1. Floor-to-ceiling glazing making activities inside visible
- 2. Stairs in the reading room



Ground floor plan

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Entry vestibule | 12. Children's admin. |
| 2. Entry / orientation | 13. Children's activity room |
| 3. Self checkout | 14. Children's collection |
| 4. New and popular | 15. Children's story area |
| 5. Book return | 16. A/V listening area |
| 6. Night book return | 17. Digikids area |
| 7. Sorting room | 18. Storage |
| 8. Café | 19. Work area |
| 9. Personal holds | 20. Receiving |
| 10. Main circulation desk | 21. Home services |
| 11. Customer service | 22. Loading area |



1



2

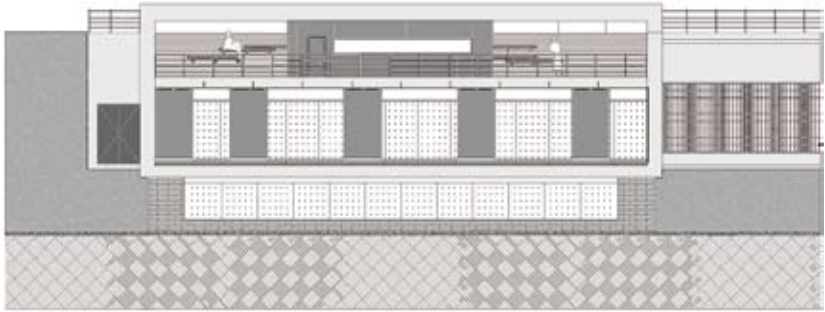
- 1. Vertical connections
- 2. View from upper-floor reading room
- 3. Aerial view towards the central atrium



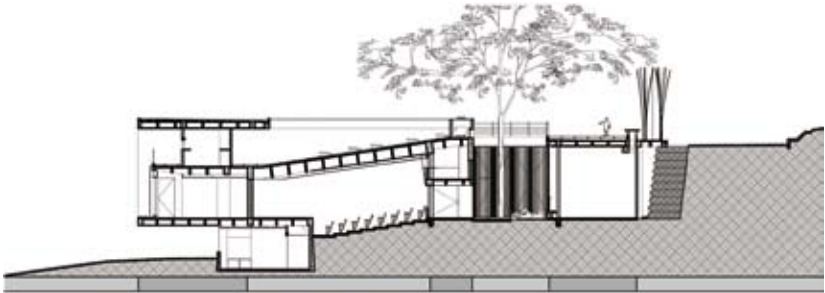
3

Public Library Leon de Greiff

Architect: Mazzanti & Arquitectos **Location:** La Ladera, Medellin, Colombia **Completion:** 2007 **GFA:** 4,191 m² **Photography:** Sergio Gómez



Elevation



Section

The aim is to establish a project that enables the biggest amount of urban connections and the development of public spaces. To achieve this, there are several proposals such as enabling the roofing of the building as public space, empowering meeting places and developing viewing points which overlook the city.

The model allows the usage of communal facilities as small open spaced theatres, viewing points, small plazas and sport fields when placing them on the rooftop, leaving plain borders as vacuums inside the lot and thus enabling their external use.

The place presents itself as a green viewing point and a territory of connections between the lower and upper zones of the quarter, which are actually used as areas for sport activities. The project redefines the existing paths and empowers the creation of shaded plazas on the library's rooftop. As a result, it not only multiplies the connections because the building is an obliged path, but also creates more and more events as people intertwine in the public spaces provided around the library. More than a transformation, the architects wanted to re-interpret the space so that it can be recreated into a symbolic place for the city.

The project consists of a system conformed by three contained, rotated, squared modules that turn, adapting themselves to the landscape and the view and one curved module that unites and relates the other modules and that, in addition, allows other uses. The project is a landscape that gives the urban geography continuity through the paths and the building of public space on the rooftop, a landscape constituted by paths, theatres or inclined plazas, a spatial network with connection multiplicity and meeting places. Each container module is structurally independent from the curved connector. Modules are conformed by screens in the ends to compensate the projection afore mentioned and in the centre two axes of rectangular columns in concrete. The connector is proposed in a reticule of metallic columns filled with concrete and a contention wall in stone gabion and concrete in the rear part.

Circulation systems crossed airs through the patios, which allow cold air to displace hot air. The architects propose the usage of natural air cooling systems, nurturing the inside of the library with fresh air. In addition to this, they want mobile blinds to cover the windows that face the sunset so that the effect of sunlight can be minimised.

- 1. Panorama by night
- 2. View from southeast
- 3. Façade detail



1

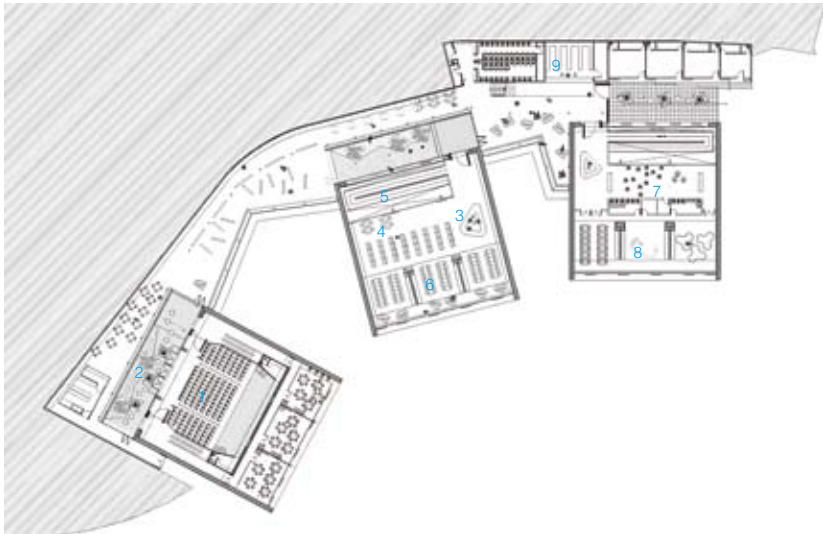
- 1. Aerial view
- 2. Casual seating in the collection room
- 3. Long courtyard with trees
- 4. Interior view with dappling light



2



3



Ground floor plan

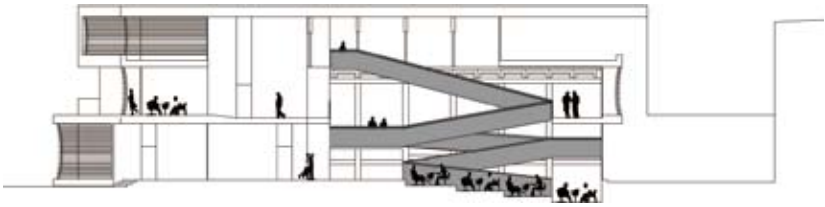
- 1. Multi-purpose hall
- 2. Gym
- 3. Reception
- 4. Reading hall
- 5. Vestibule
- 6. Collection
- 7. Auditorium
- 8. Workroom
- 9. Technical station





The peculiar-shaped green counter in the collection room

Architect: 4 PLIUS Architects / Donaldas Trainauskas & Darius Baliukevicius **Location:** Utena, Lithuania **Completion:** 2008 **GFA:** 3,100 m² **Photography:** J. Kamenskias & R. Urbakavicius



Section



Elevation

- 1. Façade by night
- 2. A shining body at night
- 3. Entrance
- 4. The shape of a transparent cube



Public Library of A. & M. Miskiniai in Utena

The idea behind this project was simple and symbolic at the same time: books, the essence of knowledge, communication and cultural tradition. As the function of a public library requires, it is open to everyone, and that is why the shape of a transparent cube, a shining body at night has been chosen.

Public libraries remain important cultural centres and spaces of gathering for local communities in smaller towns of Lithuania, and A. & M. Miskiniai Public Library in Utena is definitely one of such cases. After complete reconstruction it grew up to become a three-storey building; its area was enlarged up to more than 3,100 square metres; the whole technological infrastructure was changed. However, the scope of extension was restricted by the proximity of the central park and small-scale residential buildings nearby. The reconstruction assignment was to develop a modern and rational structure of the building with maximum use of space to meet the needs of the community; thus besides exhibition and depository spaces, a conference centre, an exhibition hall, a children literature section, a section for periodicals, the mediatheque, individual working places with access to the Internet and other spaces needed to be accommodated.

As reading is the primary purpose of the building, the architects have designed a sculptural exterior and by surrounding the façade with blinds, they have suggested the image and rhythm of books lying on shelves. Inside, the space at the entrance stretches throughout the whole building – there are almost no doors and no but glass walls. The powerful atrium up to glass ceilings is filled with light and air and creates a sense of openness and freedom. Ramps that have replaced traditional stairs perform the function of a vertical link between six levels of the building and also make it accessible to disabled people and families with small kids. Ramps framed with black railings against the background of glass become a strong detail implying incessant movement while the use of black-and-white reminds the colouring of printed texts. Some details of orange grasp attention in otherwise grey and colourless glass space; besides providing information, they also give the feeling of life and cosiness. The library's technical infrastructure meets international standards: the system is computerised and the virtual dimension of the library exits invisibly next to bookshelves. This library being dedicated to prominent Lithuanian cultural figures, brothers Antanas and Motiejus Miskiniai, excerpts from A. Miskiniai's poems are to be found on inner walls of the library.

The construction structure of the building itself is an important element in the concept of the interior. The interior as well as the exterior is united in the use of natural materials: concrete, wood, metal, and glass. The building is not a container of a specific function, but an active component of the environment. All details yield to the theme of laconic and brutally primitive design. While the project was being put into life, the initial idea of colourful books was changed into more quiet and sophisticated palette of grey-black, which permits to focus on books and visitors; this intensifies the idea of the House of Books, which fosters a sense of community.



4





1

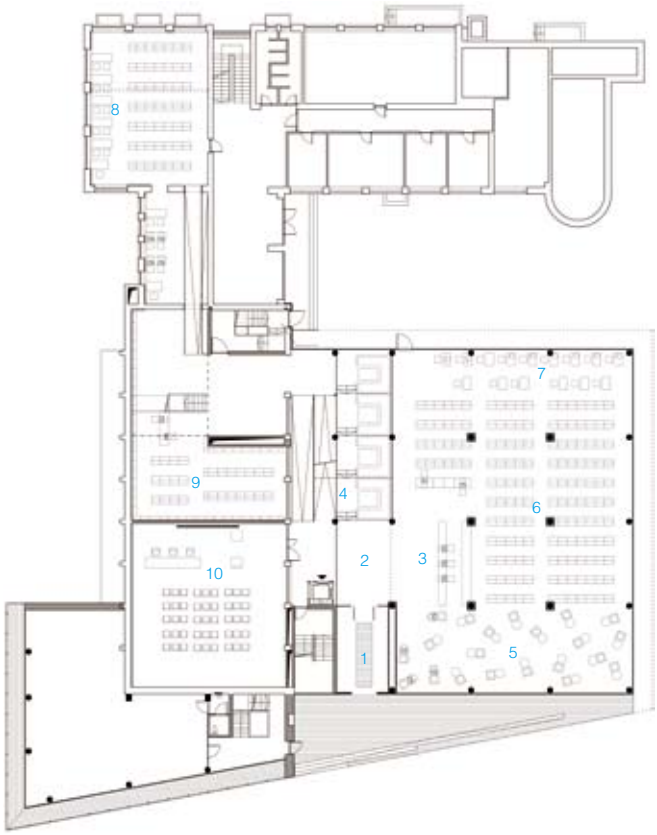


3

Awards:
European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture Mies van der Rohe Award, Nominated, 2009
Annual Exhibition of AAL Branch, Diploma for the Best Project in the Public Buildings Category, 2005



2



Ground floor plan

- 1 Entrance
- 2 Lobby
- 3 Reception
- 4 Cafeteria
- 5 Reading room
- 6 Literature collection
- 7 DVDs & CDs area
- 8 Youth literature collection
- 9 Children's literature collection
- 10 Conference hall

- 1. View of interior space from corridor
- 2. Ramp and lounge on the ground floor
- 3. Ramps as a vertical link



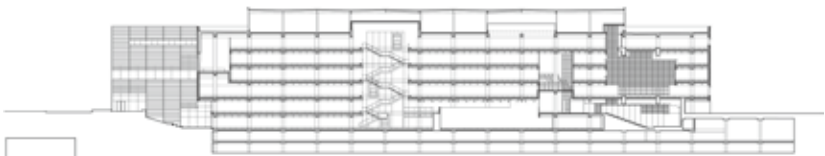
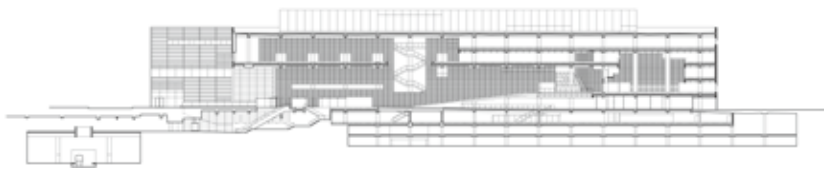
1

1. Book collection
2. Checkout area



2

Architect: Patkau Architects **Location:** Montreal, Canada **Completion:** 2005 **GFA:** 37,000 m²
Photography: James Dow, Bernard Fougères & Patkau Architects



Sections

Quebec Grand Library

The Quebec Grand Library (Grande Bibliothèque du Québec), the winning entry in an international design competition, consolidates a number of collections dispersed throughout the province to create a resource library for the region as well as a central public library for the city of Montreal. Thirty-seven thousand square metres in size, the building contains four major components: a general library, a children's library, the collection Qu'ébécoise (historic documents pertaining to Quebec), and an assortment of public spaces outside the library control zone. The building is located in Montreal's Latin Quarter, between boulevard de Maisonneuve and rue Ontario, diagonally opposite the green space of place du Quartier. Below grade, the library is joined to a major intersection in the Montreal metro system. The street and the subway system are separate but equally important public spaces. The project knits these spaces together to engage the energies of each.

Typically, the security issues associated with libraries dictate a single entrance, but a sole point of access tends to have a deadening effect on surrounding public spaces. In the Grande Bibliothèque, city and subway pedestrian routes are connected at street level and at metro level, and the building has multiple public entrances to intersect with the capillaries of the city.

The street and metro levels of the library form an expanded ground plane with public facilities on both levels. Library spaces that do not require library control – exhibition space, auditorium, conference centre and meeting rooms, catering services, gift shop, public lobby, and café – are located along pedestrian routes to foster a broader public engagement. As part of a larger strategy of urban revitalisation, avenue Savoie, a narrow lane on the west side of the building, is lined with bouquinistes (very small second-hand bookshops) and display vitrines.

Visual continuity and unexpected adjacencies encourage serendipitous connections. A sunken court provides daylight to below-grade spaces and links the street and metro levels at a significant scale. The public space of the city and the public space of the library activate and support each other, energising and enriching the idea of a new cultural space in Montreal.

The two major library collections, the general library and the collection Qu'ébécoise, are housed above the lower floors within large-scale wooden containers. Each is characterised by a specific relationship to associated reading spaces. In the general library, the collection is centrally located, with reading spaces at its edges that have access to views and daylight. In the collection Qu'ébécoise, it is reading spaces that are in the centre, in a grand toplit room formed by the collection that lines its perimeter.

Linking the wood-clad collections to the expanded ground plane is a promenade that first rises from the primary library control point to the entrance of the collection Qu'ébécoise then continues upward to circumnavigate the general library through a series of reading rooms. Views of the city unfold as the route ascends. Complementing the promenade is an efficient central system of lifts and stairs.

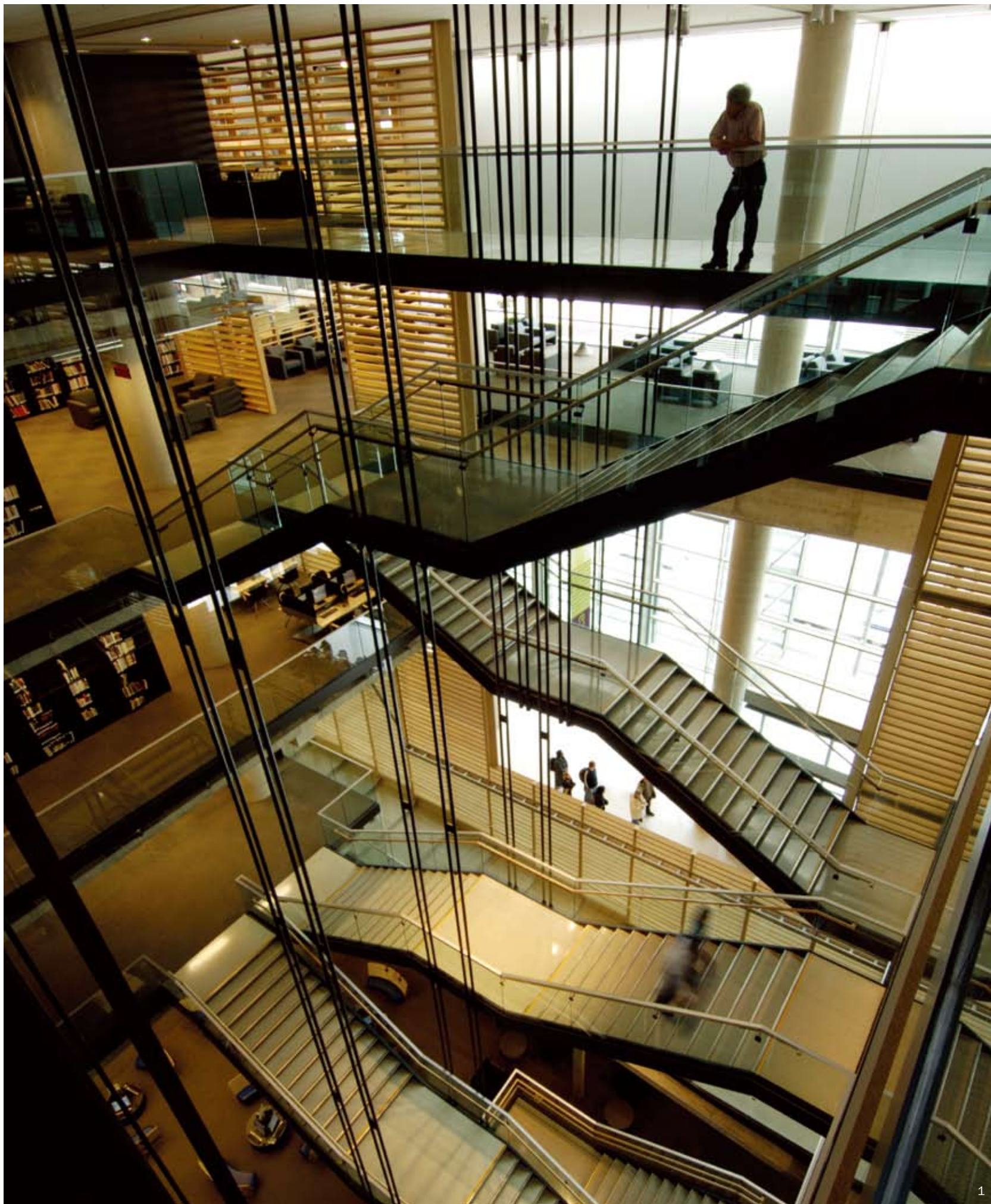
1. Aerial view by night
2. Façades with rhythmic windows



1



2



1



2

Awards:

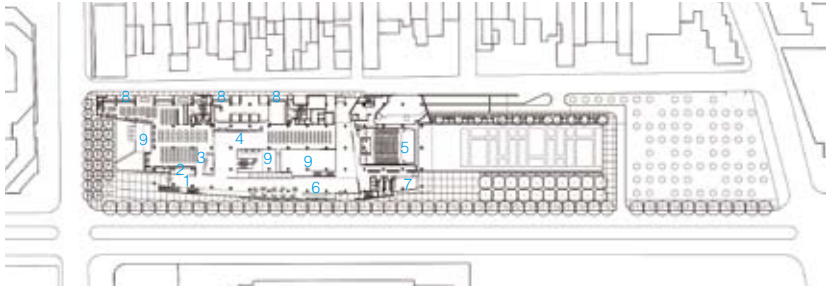
AIA/American Library Association, Honour Award, 2007
 Lieutenant Governor's Medal for Architecture, 2006

1. Vertical connections

2. View to book collections on different levels

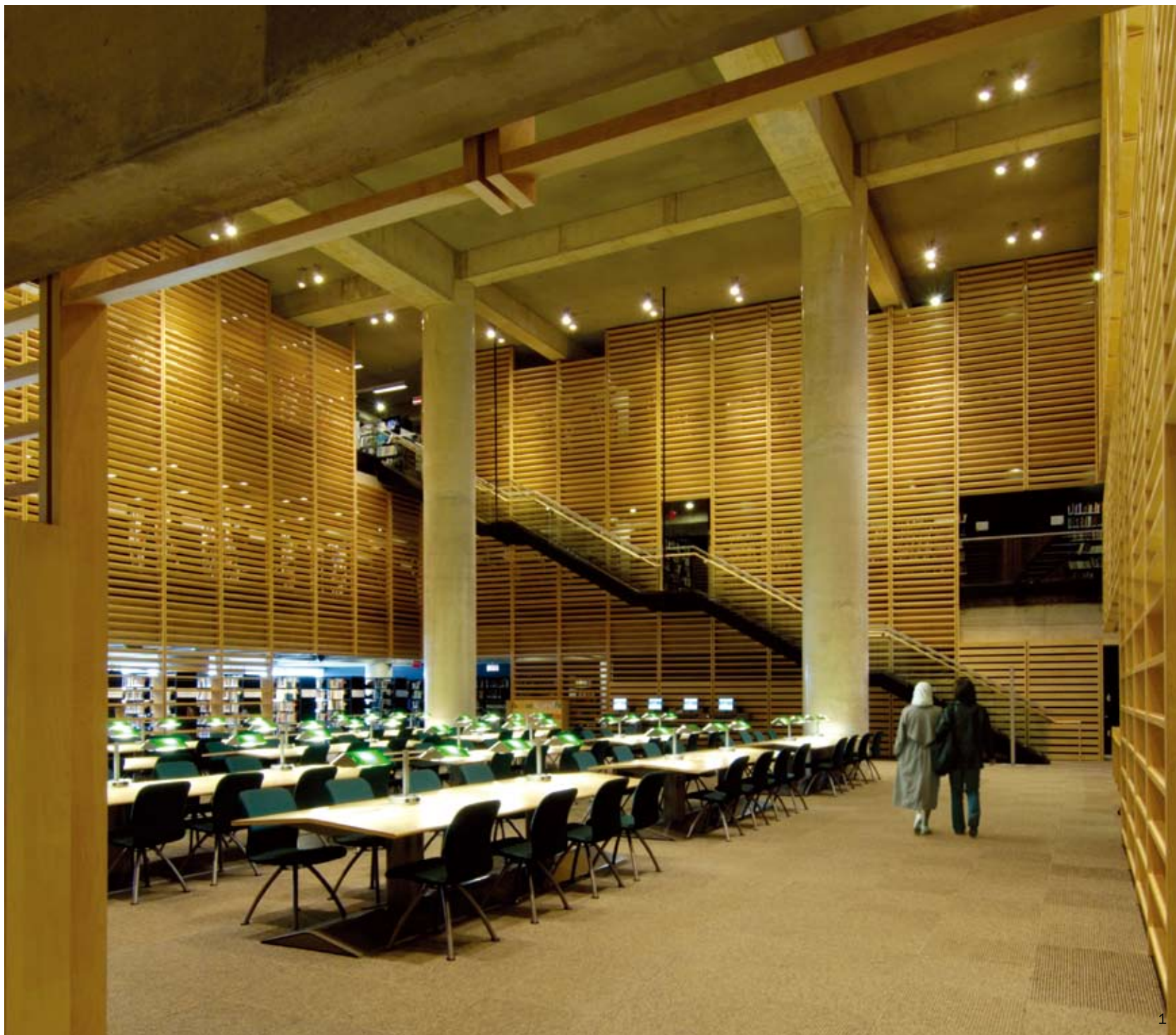


1. Public lobby below the collection storeys
2. Columns in the reading room



Street level plan

- 1. Main entrance
- 2. Bookshop
- 3. 24/7 library
- 4. General library
- 5. Auditorium
- 6. Café
- 7. Meeting room
- 8. Bouquiniste
- 9. Open to below



1. Night view of the reading room
2. Lighting effect in the reading room



Architect: Meyer, Scherer & Rockcastle, Ltd. (MS&R) **Location:** Rancho Mirage, California, USA
Completion: 2006 **GFA:** 4,200 m² **Photography:** Assassi Productions



East elevation



West elevation



South elevation



North elevation

1. The organic form, variety of materials, and subtle colours of the exterior echo the surrounding desert and mountains
2. The landscape, building form, and a public art installation of stained glass lead patrons to the entrance
3. Large glazed openings on the north side provide ample daylight and views of the desert to patrons using the perimeter reading areas
4. The height and stone cladding of the south shade walls emphasise the linear east-west axis of the building



Rancho Mirage Public Library

The design of this new library in Rancho Mirage celebrates the dynamic natural environment and culture of the Coachella Valley. The building design respects the desert landscape and supports the growing community with a mix of traditional library services and new public amenities. Three times larger than its former self, expanded programming includes room for 125,000 items (versus the old 10,000-item capacity), as well as an outdoor story-time amphitheatre, thirty computer workstations, a variety of public meeting rooms, a 350-seat auditorium, and a coffee shop. As a result, the library has become a popular “almost recreational hangout”.

Desert influence

The design team analysed and sought inspiration from the natural setting, prevailing views, and geological history of the region for the siting and design of the new library building.

To accommodate the narrow, linear site, the building is placed on the eastern edge, with parking for 220 located on three sides. Thoughtful landscaping provides shaded parking spaces for 50% of patrons, with shaded pathways leading to the building entrances. The orientation further considers the desert context, allowing access to daylight and dramatic views on the north, while walls on the south frame and shade terraces.

The form of the building reflects the site placement, sequence of spaces, and design expression of the architect. The sweeping form divides the building into two major components, with public meeting and conference rooms on the south along Highway 111 and the library proper on the north in order to provide protection from traffic noise. Reinforcing the east-west axis, the southern shade walls are heightened and clad in stone, while the glazed walls on the north afford great views and introduce daylight deep into the library.

At first glance, the desert appears monochromatic, but close-up, it presents vibrant colour. The building reflects this inside and out. The exterior represents a broad brush stroke of this landscape, with a variation of texture and subtle colour. Inside, the library portrays the detail of the desert with a vibrant mix of colour.

Community-based learning

Public libraries across the country are undergoing a revitalisation as people rediscover that libraries serve as major community-based learning centres. In turn, library design has evolved to provide the necessary space and services required by a dynamic community. In Rancho Mirage, space for the public was just as important as space for materials.

For example, the new auditorium seats 350 and includes a Steinway piano for recitals. Yet with all the additional public spaces, it remains a library at heart. The team took great care to include sophisticated soundproofing to reduce ambient noise from both the auditorium and the nearby highway.





1

1. The reading room opens to views of the mountains to the east
2. Well-lit lounge areas surround the perimeter of the building, acting as oases for patrons
3. Located off the entry lobby, the café offers community gathering space and convenient computer access



2



3

By segregating the major service areas, patrons have a choice of spaces to suit their individual needs. This programmatic decision was integral to the success of a library that serves a diverse community of more than 10% children and 43% seniors. The arrangement also enables materials to be logical and intuitively arranged – increasing the ease with which patrons can find the materials. Nearly all seating is located along perimeter walls to maximise views.

Top floor plan



- 1. South entry
- 2. West entry
- 3. Community meeting room
- 4. Conference room
- 5. Café
- 6. Restrooms
- 7. Check out
- 8. Information
- 9. Children's room
- 10. Popular library
- 11. Computer room
- 12. Quiet study
- 13. Reading room
- 14. Staff offices and workroom
- 15. Automated book return system
- 16. Staff lounge



1



2

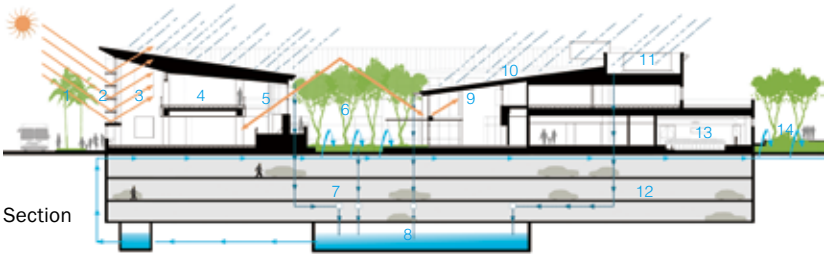


3

1. Viewed from the south entrance, service areas and help desks are easy to find along a main north-south circulation axis
2. Though located off the main circulation axis, the children's room is acoustically separated from other service areas
3. The children's room is filled with vibrant colours and details that represent the desert

Santa Monica Public Library

Architect: Moore Ruble Yudell Architects and Planners **Location:** Santa Monica, California, USA
Completion: 2005 **GFA:** 10,000 m² **Photography:** John Linden



- 1. Native planting
- 2. Sunshades and glazing
- 3. Reading room/library stacks
- 4. Raised flooring for HVAC and electrical
- 5. Main staircase
- 6. Central Courtyard
- 7. Rainwater filter
- 8. 200,000-gallon rainwater cistern
- 9. Café
- 10. Sloped impluvium roof
- 11. HVAC equipment
- 12. Below-ground parking
- 13. Auditorium
- 14. Rainwater for irrigation

The new Santa Monica Public Library replaces the existing public library at a prominent site in downtown Santa Monica. The programme requires a library building with auditorium and community rooms and a small museum, totalling 9,810 square metres in two storeys, over a three-level 530-car underground public parking garage.

The proposed programme for the 10,000-square-metre main branch of the Santa Monica Public Library is moderate in size but great in ambition, as the client requested the model of a twenty-first century library facility that would become a “living room” for the city. Pedestrians are brought into the library from all adjacent streets to enter near the main circulation desks. The building’s principal elevation presents a long, narrow, two-storey reading room with continuous floor-to-ceiling windows along a major boulevard. Other spaces feature bay windows at upper levels, inviting passers-by to see the activities within. A large enclosed garden court with controlled access permits the space to be used by library patrons and contains a small café with wireless connectivity to animate the court and provide a sociable neighbourhood destination. The north court and central garden/café combine with a 200-seat auditorium, multi-purpose rooms and museum space to offer multiple venues for public use.

The library is the first City of Santa Monica building to be awarded LEED Gold certification. More than 50% of the building materials contain significant recycled content, supporting a high level of workplace quality for users and staff. Under-floor plenum air supply in public areas promotes energy efficiency and the use of fresh air for higher indoor air quality. The chandeliers throughout the building are light sensitive and adjust as needed. The low heat-absorbing roof collects rainwater, which is filtered and stored in an underground cistern to be used for landscape irrigation. The underground parking eliminates large, paved surfaces exposed to sunlight, while the building’s roof is treated to reflect sunlight. Combined, these design elements help reduce the “heat island effect”. Solar electric panels on the roof generate renewable energy for the building, while the extensive curtain wall system provides a line of sight to windows from 90% of the public spaces in the building, giving almost every seat in the library a view to the outside.

Awards:

- Chicago Athenaeum Design Award, 2007
- Calibre Award for Environmental Leadership, 2006
- Los Angeles Architectural Awards, Sustainable Category, 2006
- Southern California Development Forum Honour Award, 2006
- McGraw Hill California Construction Best 06, Best Civic/Redevelopment, 2006
- Pre-cast Concrete Institute Design Award, Best Public/Institutional Building, 2006
- National Electrical Contractors Association/LA Award for Electrical Excellence, 2006

- 1. Main entrance by day
- 2. Entrance by night
- 3. Front façade along the boulevard
- 4. View from the courtyard





Site plan

- 1. Windows on the main façade
- 2. Enclosed garden court
- 3. Court by night





Ground floor plan

1. Main entry court
2. Vestibule
3. Entrance
4. Entrance lobby
5. Fiction & large print
6. Popular library
7. Media services
8. Young adult
9. Youth services
10. Reading garden
11. Programme area/story reading room
12. Main courtyard
13. Café
14. Museum
15. Friends of the library
16. Auditorium
17. Reception court
18. Computer services
19. Public services
20. Staff entrance

1. Aerial view of the reading room
2. Grand stairs
3. Long, narrow, two-storey reading room

Architect: Haworth Tompkins **Location:** London, UK **Completion:** 2010 **GFA:** 6,510 m² **Photography:** Paul Raftery & Philip Vile



- Section
- 1. 1930s stack
 - 2. The lounge
 - 3. New stairs
 - 4. Catalogue hall
 - 5. T.S. Eliot House
 - 6. Plant room
 - 7. Lightwell
 - 8. Old stairs
 - 9. Rare books (future phase)
 - 10. Plant room (future phase)

- 1. St James's Square entrance
- 2. Exterior view looking onto lightwell
- 3. Exterior view



The London Library

The London Library, founded by Thomas Carlyle in 1841, is the world's largest independent lending library, with over 1,000,000 books and 8,000 members. Since its inception the library has evolved into a complex amalgam of spaces that originate from a building sited on the north-west corner of St James Square.

The building has a discrete formal façade that provides a foil for a more aggregative interior. Over the years additional buildings have been annexed to house the ever-growing needs of the library and its users, including a book stack built in 1922, and an extension to the north built in 1934; the Anstruther Wing housing rare books, was built at the rear of the 1920s book stack in 1995.

The design proposals aim to meet the demands of the library's natural growth – half a mile of new shelving every year – by increasing the overall book storage capacity of the building by 30%. The project has evolved from an analysis of the library, its identity, its capacity and future needs.

The main focus of the library is the Victorian Reading Room, Issue Hall and the 1890s book stack, and the whole site retains the feel of the bespoke, containing all the authentic idiosyncrasies of an historic institution. The 21st century poses fresh challenges, including the provision of more space for the collection, staff and members; the adoption of new technology; the conservation of book stocks; and improvements to the environmental conditions of the existing building. The overall scheme will resolve staff accommodation and bring together departments previously split across the site, relocating activities into more appropriate locations.

The recently completed Phase 2 works provide forty-two new reader spaces and 1.25 kilometres of new shelving, a new conservation studio and new designated rooms for the Art Book Collection, Times Collection and Periodicals and Societies Collection, improved circulation with new lift and stairs, the remodelling of the main Issue Hall and the creation of a new members, entrance from Mason's Yard.





1



2

1. Members lounge opening into Prevost room
2. Issue Hall from main staircase

Ground floor plan



- 1. T.S. Eliot House
- 2. Art room
- 3. New stairs
- 4. North Bay members' entrance
- 5. Administrative corridor
- 6. Catalogue hall
- 7. 1920's stack
- 8. The 1890's courtyard stack
- 9. Lightwell
- 10. Old stairs
- 11. Issue Hall



1. Main reading room
2. Lightwell periodicals reading room
3. Prevost room, members reading room





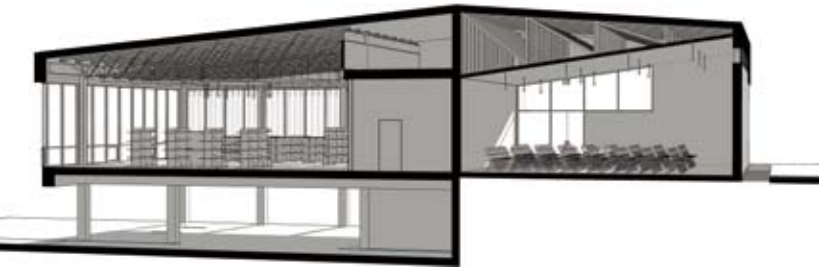
1. Ground floor art room
2. Art room gallery



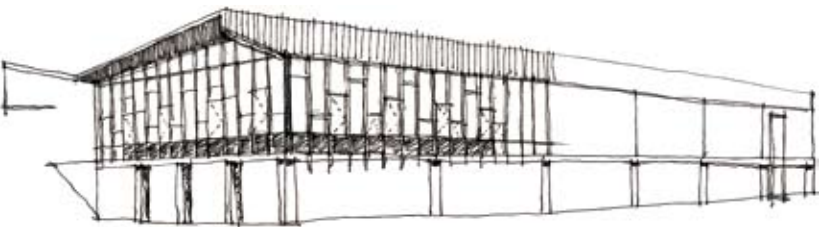
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Toco Hill – Avis G. Williams Library

Architect: Houser Walker Architecture **Location:** Decatur, USA **Completion:** 2009 **GFA:** 1,680 m²
Photography: Brian Gassel & Houser Walker Architecture



Section



Sketch

The Toco Hill Branch Library site lies on the transitional edge of a 22-hectare public park and boasts impressive woodland vistas on three sides, with converging streams to the south and west of the building. Topographically, the previous building and site formed a plateau which dropped off quickly towards the streams. As architects, Houser Walker found great inspiration in the surrounding park setting and sought to create a contemplative urban platform to complement it.

Formally, the building and landscape comprise a type of metaphorical play on the traditional “zen garden”. This allusion is defined architecturally by a granulated, infrastructural “field” of evenly distributed parking, utilities, stacks and services, while discreet elements or “stones” are strategically located within this field – objects that highlight unique and special programmatic opportunities. Each “stone” becomes a kind of guidepost, containing more active learning opportunities or guiding one more directly along a chosen path. Contrast between the two systems defines and organises the spatial narrative and flow for users of the building. Subtle overlapping systems of various architectural elements, including lighting, ducting, carpeting, window mullions, etc. complement and reinforce this reading throughout. It also enabled the design to maximise surrounding views and daylight opportunities.

The building’s ecological performance concentrated around four key drivers: reducing energy consumption, day lighting, storm water management, and thermal comfort. To reduce energy consumption, the building has a very tight, thermally efficient exterior envelope; contains high efficiency lighting and HVAC systems and controls; and high performance glazing and insulation. Carefully calculated exterior wood screening mitigates southwest solar gains and improves daylight quality. The architects sought to minimise the overall impact on the site by limiting the constructed footprint, creating porous exterior parking surfaces, and implementing an innovative site water filtration system which will capture, filter, and return all rainfall to the existing watershed.



2

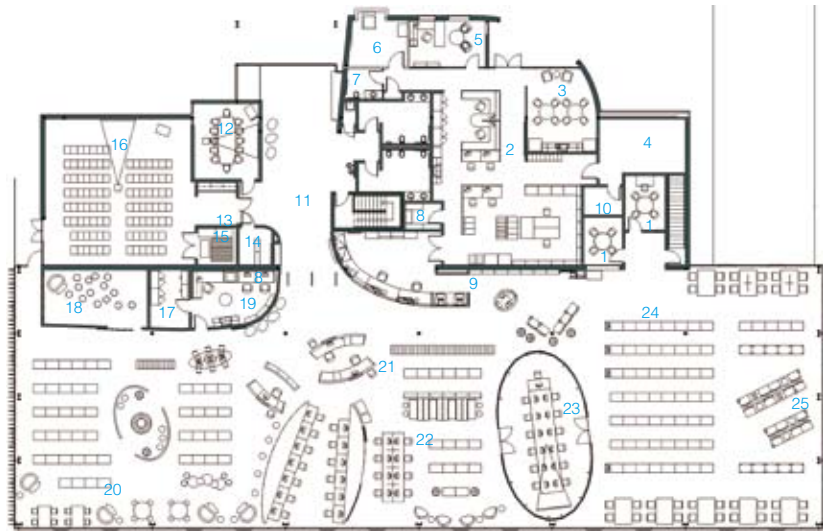
- 1. Pathway
- 2. Façade
- 3. Entrance



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3



Floor plan

- 1. Study
 - 2. Staff office
 - 3. Staff break
 - 4. Mechanical room
 - 5. Librarian
 - 6. Book drop
 - 7. Staff toilet
 - 8. Storage
 - 9. Checkout
 - 10. Server
 - 11. Lobby
 - 12. Small conference
 - 13. Coffee bar
 - 14. F.O.T
 - 15. T&C storage
 - 16. Auditorium
 - 17. Youth work storage
 - 18. Story area
 - 19. Youth workroom
 - 20. Youth area
 - 21. Reference
 - 22. Teen area
 - 23. Computer room
 - 24. Main study / collection area
 - 25. Magazine
- 1. Landscape
 - 2. Secondary entrance
 - 3. Main reading area



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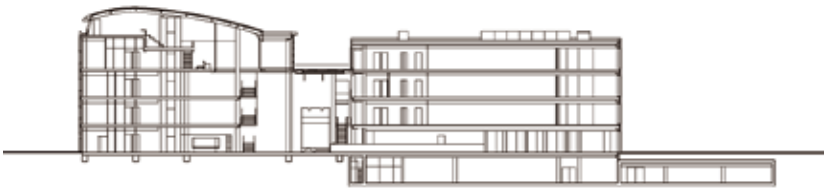
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- 1. Check-out area
- 2. Magazine area
- 3. Lounge
- 4. Computer room

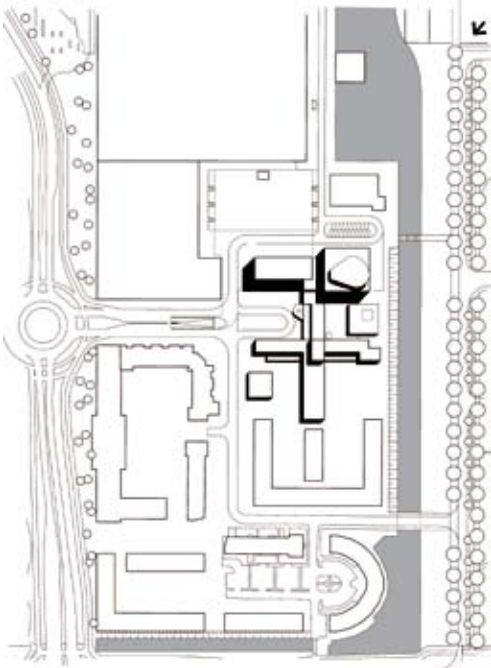


4

Architect: Hans van Heeswijk Architecten **Location:** Heerhugowaard, The Netherlands **Completion:** 2007 **GFA:** 19,000 m² **Photography:** Luuk Kramer



Section



Site plan

- 1. Entrance
- 2. Dusk view
- 3. Panorama
- 4. Night view



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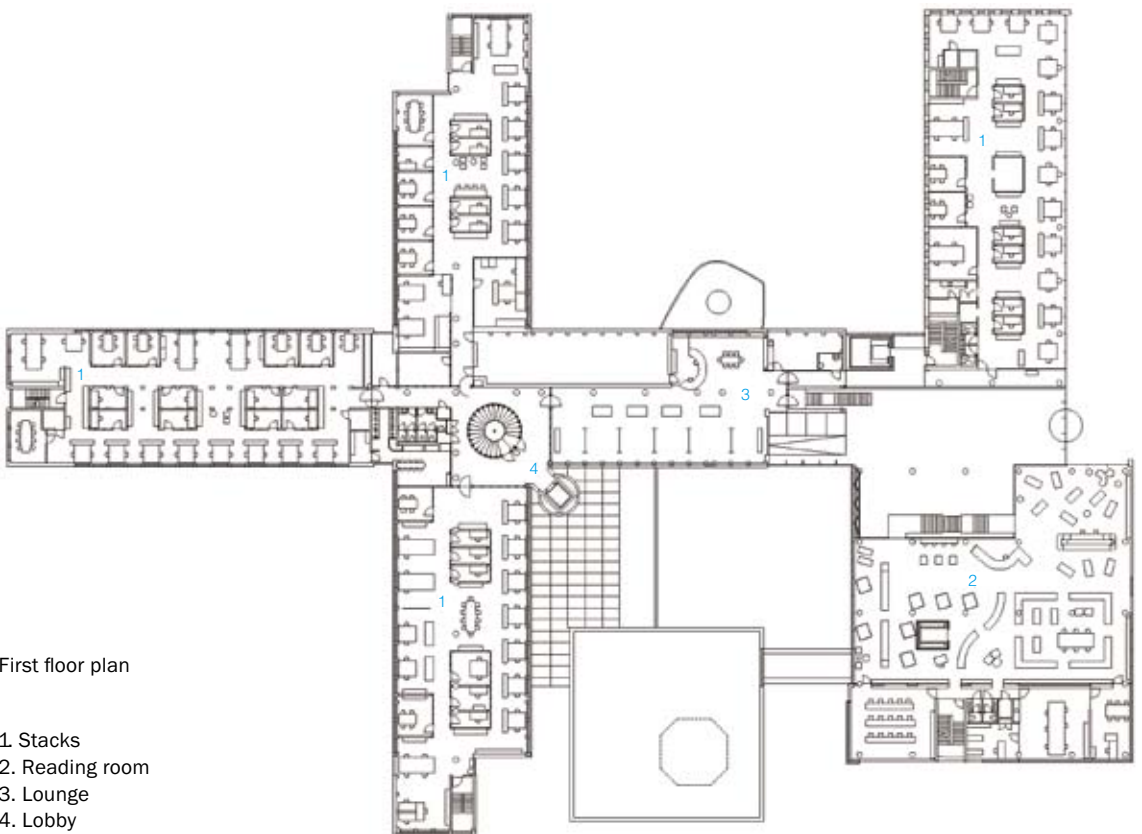


3



2

- 1. Town hall reception
- 2. Town hall interior
- 3. Library interior



First floor plan

- 1. Stacks
- 2. Reading room
- 3. Lounge
- 4. Lobby



1



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2

- 1. Library reception
- 2. Reading room
- 3. Stacks
- 4. Entrance to the "Music & Art" collection
- 5. Corridor



4



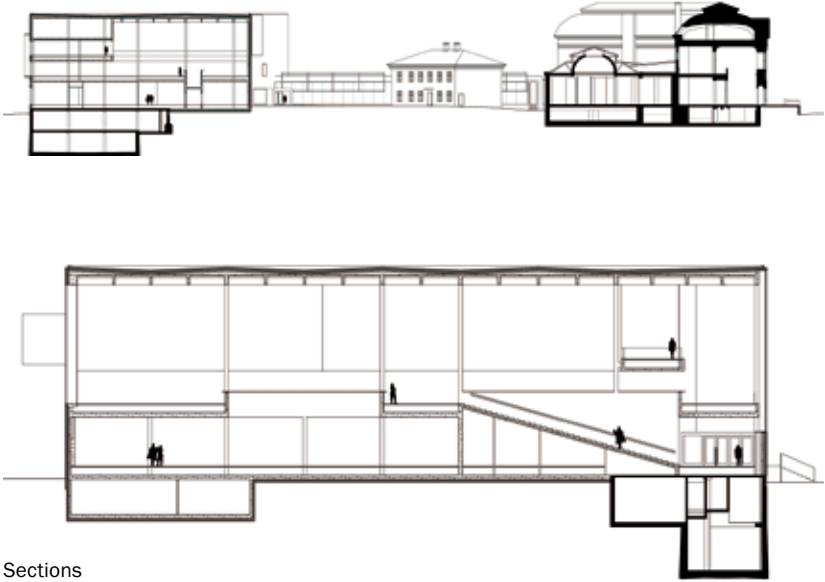
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- 1. Discussion room
- 2. Lounge
- 3. Conference room
- 4. Meeting room



Architect: JKMM Architects **Location:** Turku, Finland **Completion:** 2007 **Photography:** Arno de la Chapelle & Michael Perlmutter



Sections

Turku City Library

The new city library in Turku is located at the historical centre of the city. The building is the latest addition to a block with the old library and several other historically valuable buildings. The historical and cultural value of the site presented a great challenge for the planning of the new building. The objective of the project was to create a new construction, which would harmonise with the historically invaluable setting while also manifesting an architecture of its own age. In terms of urban planning the goal was to fill out the open and unstructured street corner by following the edges of the existing urban grid. By constructing the building on the outer perimeter, JKMM were able to provide an open space in the middle of the lot, which was designed to serve as a courtyard for recreation and a stage for cultural events. The interior of the new building is annexed with the existing 100-year-old library building and the chancellery of the governor built at the beginning of the 19th century, now restored and transformed to facilitate a café and meeting rooms.

The new library has a functionally clear design. The public spaces are situated mainly on two floors surrounding the opening to the courtyard. The staff premises are located systematically on one side of the building facing the street. The new main entrance opens onto the corner of two main streets. The ground floor has a reception and lounge area, a children's and youth section, and a modernised version of a periodicals reading room called the news market, which functions simultaneously as the link between the new library and the old buildings. The main room of the new building is reached through a main stairway, which opens to a monumental space containing the non-fiction stacks and reading areas. The guiding principle in the space planning was flexibility; the functions of the library may change radically in the future with the introduction of new media. The rooms are open, and the functions are limited only by the transformability of the easy-to-move furniture.

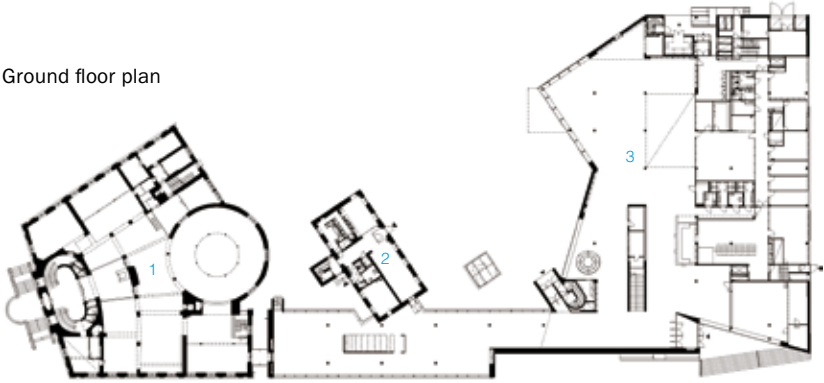
The materials of the building were chosen to accommodate the environment. The façades are mainly plastered, which is the predominant material of the old buildings in the block. Initially the architects considered using red brick, but gave up the idea to allow the old library building to remain the only brick building on the block thus emphasising its primary position in the neighbourhood. The designers also used natural stone extensively on the façades, the stairway and the grounds surrounding the building. In the interior they used European Oak mostly in the wall furnishing and furniture. The structure of the building was made from concrete cast on site, which was left exposed as an important part of the interior design. The fair-faced concrete was formed with vertical boards to achieve the rough feeling characteristic of the material. Glass was given a seminal role both in the outer architecture and the interior world. From the first steps of the planning process it was clear that the exuberant use of glass would be the best choice. Transparency befits this type of building; a public library building should evoke the idea of openness.

- 1. Panorama from west
- 2. Façade





Awards:
SIO Good Environment Award, 2008



- 1. Old library
- 2. Office building
- 3. New library

- 1. Reading room
- 2. Reading room
- 3. Shelves



1



2



3

1. Central grand staircase
2. View towards the shelves from the staircase
3. Spacious reading room



1



2



3

1. Seating area near the top of the staircase
2. Eye-catching lamps
3. Seats along the curtain wall
4. Lounge area by the window on the ground floor



4



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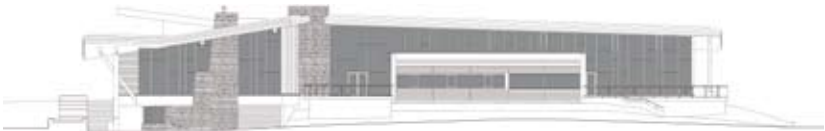
- 1. Children's section
- 2. Reading area
- 3. Dining room
- 4. Meeting room



4

Whistler Public Library

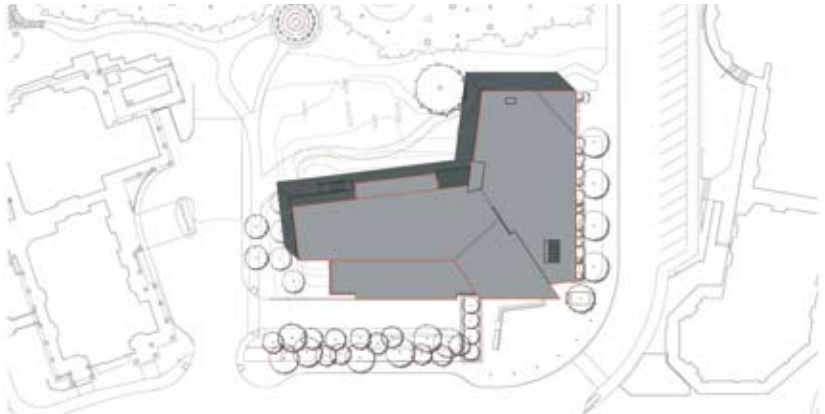
Architect: Hughes Condon Marler Architects **Location:** Whistler, British Columbia, Canada **Completion:** 2007 **GFA:** 4,570 m² **Photography:** Martin Tessler & Nic Lehoux



North elevation



Longitudinal section



Site plan

Reinterpreting the existing Whistler architecture, which is often characterised by overly expressed connection details and faux Alpine pastiche, the design intent for the library was to create a crafted response to site conditions and the imperatives of Alpine architecture by using local natural materials, contemporary wood detailing, and a formal building response to improving energy efficiency.

Located between the largest park in Whistler Village and a vital pedestrian promenade called the Village Stroll, the Whistler Public Library is a project that celebrates a community's passion for the outdoors and the creative and intellectual pursuits of locals and visitors alike. From the project's beginning, the 4,570-square-metre library aspired to connect the sense of imagination, contemplation and community found in the world of books with the inspiration created by the surrounding mountain tops and adjacent forest glades.

The library's L-shaped plan allows multiple connections to contrasting site conditions. On the north side of the site is Village Park which contains a children's reading circle, pedestrian walkways, biking/skiing greenways and a stream for stormwater management. Adjacent to the park, the elevations on the north and west of the library provide an expansive curtain wall glazing system that optimises visual connections to Sprott Mountain in the distance and to Village Park in the foreground. To emphasise this relationship, the vertical window mullions are staggered randomly to abstract the rhythm of the tree trunks in the adjacent park and to draw the eye upward towards the views.

In juxtaposition to the park elevations, the south and east elevations on Main Street use pedestrian arcades, long overhangs, rhythms of doubled-up glulam columns punctuated with wood windows and infill wood panels to connect to the meandering and intimate architecture of the Whistler Village. To enhance these links to the social life and outdoor activities of Whistler, the building is oriented to create a civic plaza that links the building to the Village Stroll and provides a sense of prospect over the park to the north.

Awards:

World Architecture Festival Shortlist, 2009
Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia Awards for Architecture, 2009
Wood Design Real Cedar Award, 2008

1. Panorama
2. A crafted response to site conditions





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- 1. Winter view
- 2. Aerial view
- 3. Long overhangs
- 4. Doubled-up glulam columns



1

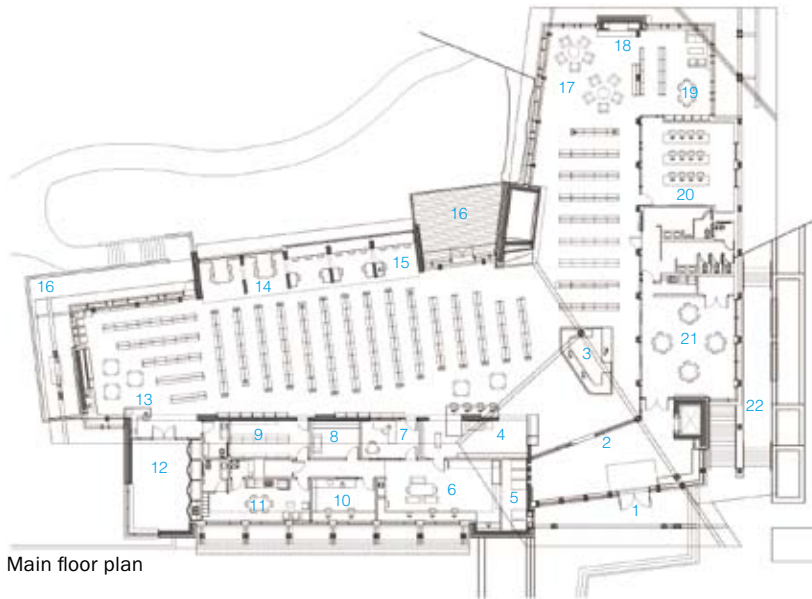


3



2

- 1. Check-out desk
- 2. Shelves
- 3. View of the shelves from the check-out



Main floor plan

- 1. Main entrance
- 2. Entry vestibule
- 3. Circulation desk
- 4. Patron service
- 5. Book drop
- 6. Workroom
- 7. Head librarian office
- 8. Copy / storage
- 9. Storage
- 10. Office
- 11. Staff room
- 12. Child programme room
- 13. Children's area
- 14. Group study
- 15. Quiet carrels
- 16. Outdoor reading terrace
- 17. Reading room
- 18. Fireplace
- 19. Teen area
- 20. Computer lab
- 21. Multipurpose room
- 22. Arcade

Architect: Patkau Architects & LM Architectural Group **Location:** Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
Completion: 2005 **GFA:** 10,680 m² (renovation) + 4,180 m² (addition) **Photography:** James Dow



Longitudinal section

Winnipeg Library Addition

Winnipeg Centennial Library, originally constructed in 1976 as a three-storey building, occupies a city block along with a large public park. Both library and green space stand on a below-grade parking garage. The library, which is roughly triangular in plan, is constructed of reinforced concrete; the concrete is exposed on the interior, while the exterior is clad in pre-cast panels. Connection between the 1976 library and park is surprisingly limited.

The addition to the library includes reorganisation and expansion of the collections, reconfiguration of the circulation systems, and creation of new social spaces, as well as renovation of the existing library. Expanding the library into the park would have destroyed valuable public green space and required costly foundation reinforcement within the parking garage. An alternative was to extend the library upward. Fortunately, the building had the structural capacity to accept an additional floor, provided it was light in weight; it also needed to be re-roofed. Thus, most of the added space is contained in a new, light, steel-framed third floor under a new roof.

Because of severe winter conditions, many of the buildings in downtown Winnipeg are linked by a continuous interior tunnel and skywalk system. The library is connected to this system by bridges at the first level. An enlarged two-storey lobby, created by removing a portion of the first floor, allows the street-level entrance to the library, as well as a gift shop and café within the lobby, to interconnect with the skywalk.

From this urban intersection, patrons are drawn through the building, along an interior “street” animated by displays and bookselling events, and to the park. At the park edge, new public lifts and an elongated system of stairs and reading terraces tie the largely independent existing floors to each other and to the new third floor. The glazed wall of this multi-storey space opens every level to light, landscape, and city. All public and collection spaces are accessible from this linear route. The compact footprint of the addition maintains maximum park space, allowing the library to take advantage of its location, while the highly visible, interactive terraces, an interior topography at the scale of the park, generate a radically new identity for the library.

The library is ordered in strips, in a series of zones that run parallel to the window wall and across the long dimension of the space. The strips accommodate the programmatic components of the library in identifiable categories. The first strip is the park, an integral part of all public spaces in the building. The second is all forms of reading – tables, comfortable chairs, and casual seating. The third is low masses, such as reference collections, help desks, and the computer stations, and fourth is high masses, such as shelving running in clear sequences. The fifth category comprises rooms: closed reading rooms, offices and meeting rooms, staff areas, service areas, and book handling access. The strips progress from park to interior, from open to enclosed, from low to high, from areas of greatest public access and interaction to areas of privacy and quiet.

1. Window detail
2. Night view
3. Aerial view by night
4. Extensive curtain wall

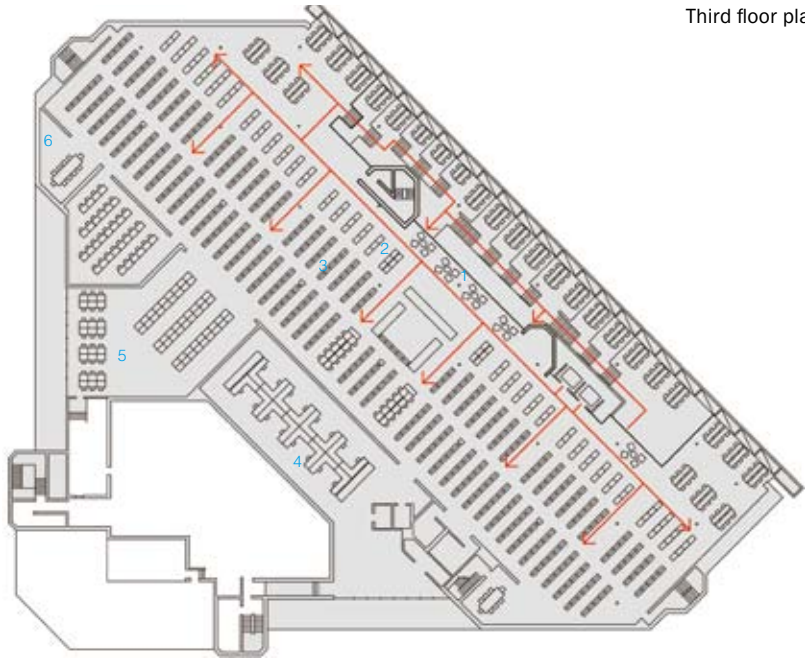




1. Library interior
2. Reading area



Awards:
Lieutenant-Governor of BC Medal, 2007
Canadian Architect Award of Excellence, 2004
Winning Submission, Design Competition, 2002



Third floor plan

- 1. Casual seating
- 2. Reference collections
- 3. Book shelving
- 4. Office
- 5. Closed reading room
- 6. Meeting room



1. Ground floor lobby
2. Upper floor lounge

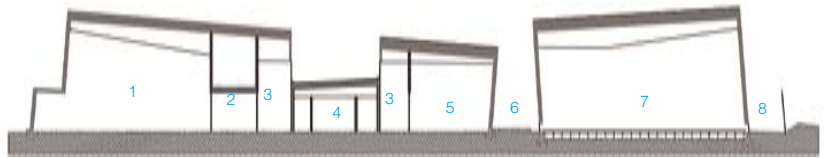


Arabian Public Library

Architect: Richárd + Bauer Architecture **Location:** Scottsdale, Arizona, USA **Completion:** 2007 **GFA:** 1,860 m² **Photography:** Bill Timmerman / Timmerman Photography & Mark Boisclair / Mark Boisclair Photography



North elevation



- North elevation
- 1. Staff open office
 - 2. Office
 - 3. Gallery
 - 4. Restroom
 - 5. Meeting room
 - 6. Entrance
 - 7. Main reading room
 - 8. Court

The Arabian Public Library is a freestanding replacement for the small, shared-use facility at the Desert Arroyo Middle School. The interior of the cavernous reading room is clad in an acoustically absorbent perforated wood treatment that provides noise mitigation, allowing for spaces that enable patrons to enjoy reading, studying, and small group activities without excessive noise spill over from adjacent zones. The accessible floor provides recessed mechanical, electrical, and data distribution for long-term flexibility and ease of maintenance.

The building is a remembrance of the desert slot canyons of northern Arizona and monument valley, capturing the powerful and unique experience between the compressive stone walls and the ultimate release to the sky above. Ever-patient threads of water, sculpting and polishing the massive walls, cut these natural sandstone canyons over millennia. Harder stone and slow water sharply define vertical slivers while softer stone gives way to wider crevasse.

The library echoes this powerful natural sequence. Organised around a central court, the building is entered through a “slot canyon” of steel and glass. Walls of weathered steel plate reflect the terra cotta walls of stone as they lean overhead. The weathered steel walls of the building support an earthen and stone roof, planted with native vegetation and stone from the site. Two roof gardens contain desert variety trees and groundcovers, recalling the surface level vegetation as one descends into the canyon.

A continuous thread of water echoes the natural erosion of the canyon wall creating the powerful imagery of the building, and eventually pooling in the lower edge of the courtyard. A singular tree is the focus of the space. This centralised court is used as a pre-function and programme spaces for the library and meeting rooms. Two slender “canyon courts” flank the west and south sides of the building, expanding library lounge spaces to the exterior and ultimately opening the building to the sky and desert floor again.

The LEED-certified building incorporates a subfloor mechanical, electrical and data distribution system, providing long-term flexibility in a rapidly changing informational environment. Air stratification techniques minimise the cooling demand on high volume spaces while maximising patron comfort. The building is lined with perforated hardboard and recycled cotton insulation to accommodate acoustical properties while reinforcing the homogenous notion of the canyon walls. A series of architectural ledges give way to internal clerestories, introducing daylight to the centre of the space. The unique programme of the library is based on contemporary bookstore concepts, and includes the popular library as well as café and bookstore elements.

- 1. View from the central court
- 2. Central court at dusk
- 3. Panorama by nightfall





Awards:
AIA/ALA Library Building Awards, 2009
Metropolis, Third Annual Smart Environments Award Winner, 2008
AIA/IIDA, Best of Competition, 2008
AIA Western Mountain Region, Honour Award, 2008
AIA Arizona, Honour Award, 2008
Valley Forward Environmental Design, Merit Award, 2008
IIDA SW Chapter PRIDE Award, Design Excellence for Single Space, Teen Square, 2008
IIDA SW Chapter PRIDE Award, Design Excellence for Public Facility, 2008
IIDA/*Metropolis*, Smart Environments Award, 2008
ALA/IIDA, Honour Award: Public Libraries 2,800 m²-smaller, 2008
IIDA SW Chapter PRIDE Award, On the Boards, 2006
ALA/IIDA, Honour Award: On the Boards, 2006
AIA Western Mountain Region, Citation (unbuilt), 2005



- 1. Canyon walls
- 2. Remembrance of the desert slot canyons
- 3. Façade close-up
- 4. Exterior / interior relation established by the glass wall





1. Place for casual reading
2. Natural lighting realised by walls



- 1. Entrance
- 2. Programme courtyard
- 3. Lobby
- 4. Service desk
- 5. Bookstore / café
- 6. Teen area
- 7. Computer training
- 8. Adult collection
- 9. Children's area
- 10. Programme room
- 11. Staff
- 12. Restrooms
- 13. Meeting rooms
- 14. Reading court
- 15. Café court

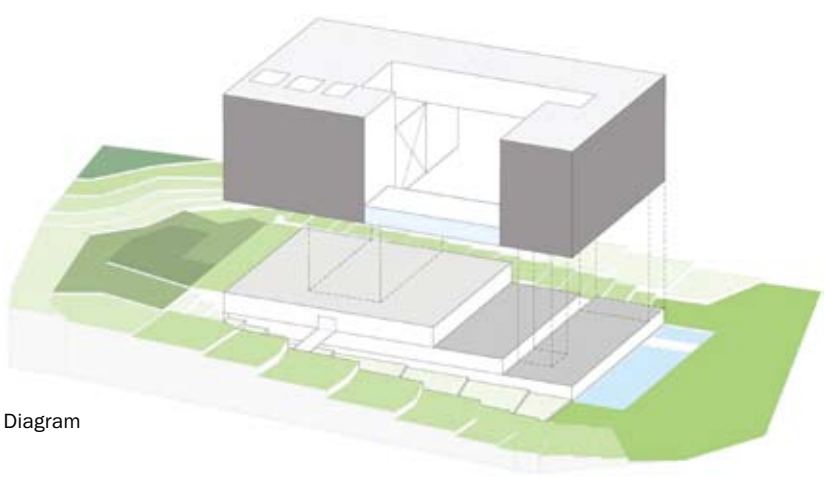


1. Meeting room
2. Reading room

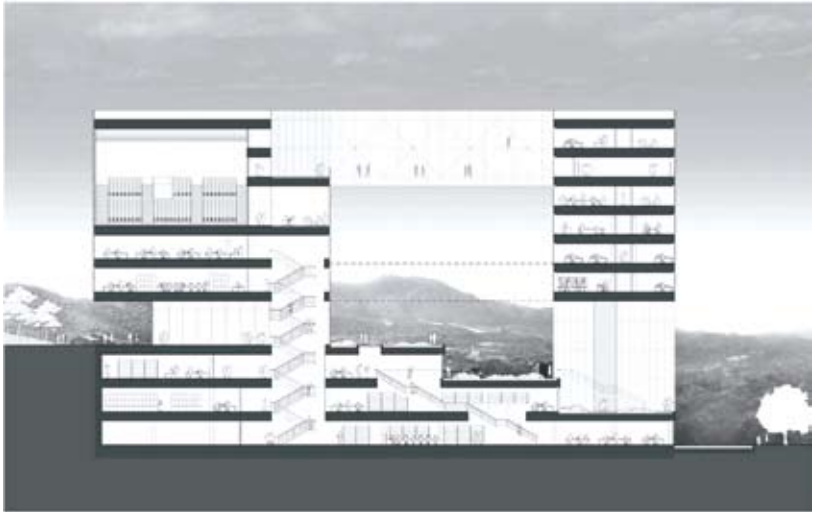


Chungwoon University Library

Architect: Hyunjoon Yoo Architects & DANU **Location:** Hongsung-gun, Korea **Completion:** 2010 **GFA:** 21,900 m² **Photography:** Seunghoon Yum



Diagram



Section

- 1. Context
- 2. Frontage
- 3. Panorama



1

Site

The site is located at the hill between traffic intersection on the south side and pine tree forest on the north side. The slope of the site is facing the south with a nice mountain view at a distance. On the west side across the road, there are classroom buildings, and on the north side across the pine forest, there are a couple of buildings including dormitory and classroom buildings. The challenge of the site is how to make the pleasant environment condition for the library by using the slope of the site.

Programme

There are mainly two programmes for the given building complex. One is a conventional library and the other is an office space including a lecture hall, an exhibition hall, a president room and a chairman of board room.

Designing the library at the slope

University is a place for study and self research. Therefore, the architects thought the heart of the university must be a library. In this regards, they started the building design from the library which is the most important programme of the given programmes. The site is facing the south and has a mountain view at a distance. They defined that ideal life style at the library is reading books by the window with a natural view and getting fresh air and sunshine at the terrace right in front of the reading room from time to time. Therefore, the architects created a stepped terrace mass and located the reading zone along the window with a mountain view, and located the book stock which requires the shadow zone for protecting the books at the rear side far away from the window.

Design the office mass

The programmatic challenge of this project was how to combine office and library together with a harmony. The architects started the design with the library because they definitely wanted to have a library with a terrace garden. That was the first step of design. The second step was to locate the huge mass of the office building with a lecture hall. The designers still have a big chunk of book stocks left. Because of the tight size of the given site, all of these programmes have to be located above the library. The office and book stock above literary blocked the natural light and wind reaching the library. In order to solve this problem, they split the mass and created a void space to let the light and wind penetrate the mass.



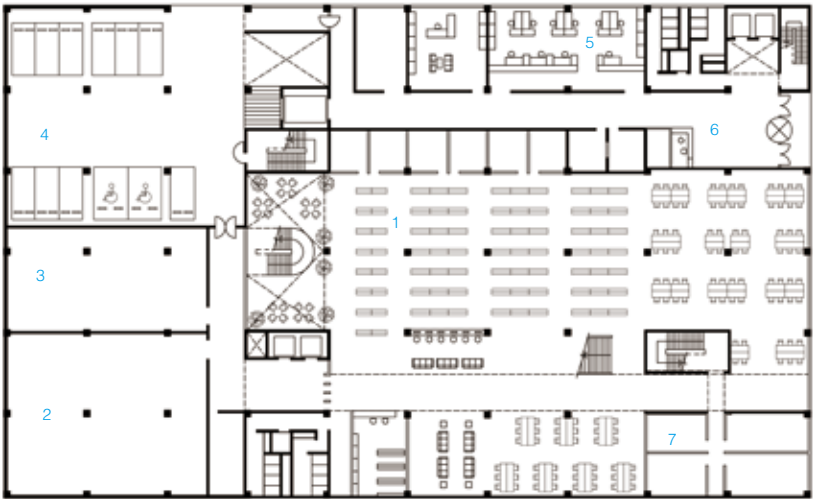
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3



1. Distant view
2. Façade
3. Slope at dusk



Ground floor plan

- 1. General resource room
- 2. Machine room
- 3. Electrical room
- 4. Indoor parking
- 5. Office
- 6. Lobby
- 7. Studio



1



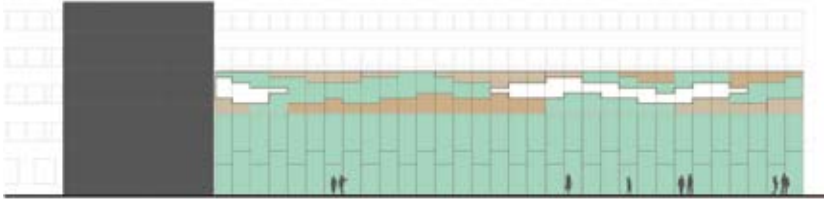
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- 1. Upward view from the courtyard
- 2. Courtyard
- 3. Terrace

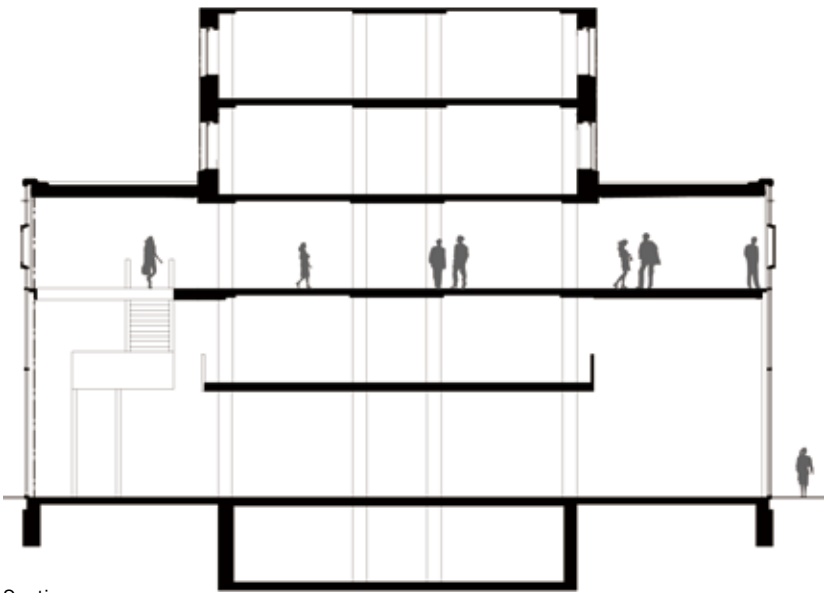


3

Architect: pvanb architecten **Location:** Groningen, The Netherlands **Completion:** 2008 **GFA:** 1,400 m²
Photography: Harold Koopmans



Elevation



Section

- 1. Aerial view
- 2. Curtain wall detail
- 3. Close-up of façade
- 4. View from the park



1



2

The design concept for the glass façade emphasises the connecting and separating function of the library, situated between the plaza and the office block. The modern leaded glass structure manifests itself as a present-day cornice of the entire new extension, and is simultaneously a connecting element between the existing and the new construction. The design is characterised by a refined and convincing elaboration of the extension's dual role. The subtle application of various sorts of glass complements the glass volume of the plaza, which is geared to encounters. However, the library extension also has its own character and distinguishes itself securely from the plaza and the WSN Building.

A nuanced geometrical pattern of transparent, sun-resistant, figured and coloured glass is attached to the façade like a cloud, so that the reflection of typical Dutch skies is abstracted in the direction of the business-like and robust appearance of the WSN Building. The cloud is fixed in place by prominent aluminium frames in various colours, and ensures a tranquil environment within the library. The pattern of the abstracted cloud has been playfully continued in the interior, which is attuned to the structure of the existing building. Due to the limited storey height, the construction and installations have been kept in view and, just like the other layout elements, have been implemented in shining white. The light design of the interior creates a serene atmosphere but places the accent, above all, on the attractive play of light of the façade. In this way, the library reflects its relationship with the surroundings in splendid fashion, while also manifesting a lucid coherence between the interior and the exterior.

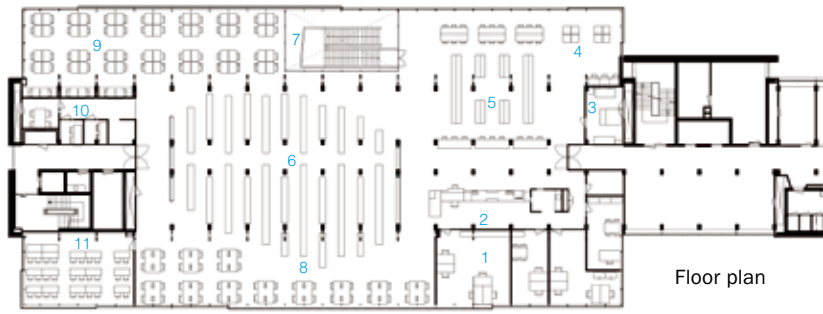
The PVANB extension to the EBR Library subtly illuminates the programme as a present-day glass cornice, and forcefully complements the context of existing and new construction. In splendid fashion, the library reflects its relationship with the surroundings as well as presenting an evident coherence between interior and exterior.

Close co-operation between the client, architect and façade constructor has resulted in an exceptionally unconventional glass façade. The extension forms the second storey of a radical renovation of the WSN Building in which, in the first phase, the three lowest storeys on the north side are renovated and extended. The ground floor and the first floor are transparent, and provide space for a new – although previously designed – (study) plaza, while the second storey, with modern leaded glass, accommodates the library. Although the new volume manifests itself as a single unit, the extension to the library is situated between the plaza and the WSN Building, a fact that literally created a split assignment. The library had to form an independent, present-day extension to the existing building but also dovetail with the plaza. In addition, the library assignment required clear spatial organisation and a tranquil working ambience.





1. Claddings
2. New library above the plaza
3. Studying in the clouds



1. Staff offices
2. Library desk
3. Book copiers
4. (Newspaper) reading table
5. Shelves for magazines
6. Library bookshelves
7. Staircase to plaza
8. Workstations with PC
9. Workstations without PC
10. Concentration workplaces
11. Education area



1



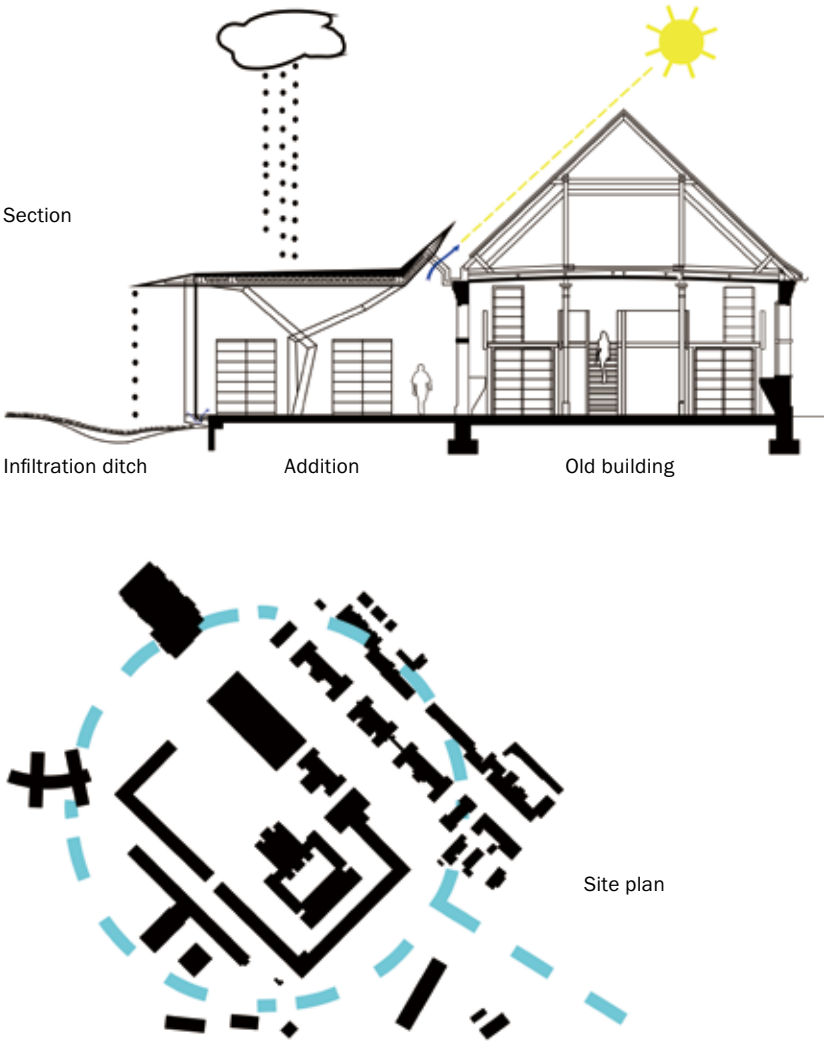
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3

- 1. Reception
- 2. Study room
- 3. Stacks

Architect: Planungsgemeinschaft zauberscho(e)n, Bühler and Bühler & Architekten BDA **Location:** Muenster, Germany **Completion:** 2010 **GFA:** 400 m² **Photography:** Roland Borgmann



1. Context
2. Façade by day
3. Façade by night
4. Night view



Library for Architecture, Art and Design, Leonardo Campus, Muenster

The Leonardo Campus in the north of Muenster consists of the Academy of Art, the Muenster School of Architecture and the School of Design, a creative campus on the site of a former trooper barrack. The book inventories of all three institutions are merged in a library and stand behind the walls of a part of the former horse stables. The shelves required more space, but where?

In the past horses stood in front of the stables, and now the books are going to stand there. They are framed by a glass façade, whose large-sized glass panels are reinforced by glass fins. This façade out of especially clear glass shapes the building through its great transparency. The books thus become during daytime and especially at night from the outside an important focus of the university campus and form a memorable sign of education.

The space is divided into three parts and offers different working atmospheres to the students. Up front the façade develops into three study carrels for an undisturbed learning, and in the rear stands a large table for groups, separable as required through an acoustic curtain. As a transformable element it can form an individual thinking-zone or open up a larger area. The outside is printed with a digitally generated motive on the basis of the "School of Athens" by Raphael. Through its indifference the curtain generates a constant changing relation to space.

Gottfried Sempers postulates for polychrome and his conclusion that colour has a less bawling effect than glaring plain white, which, in the building, becomes clear in the interaction of intense green ceiling and black floor with the chromaticity of the trees outside and the brick colour of the surrounding buildings. Looking through the façade, the surrounding appears in high gloss, much more colourful as this can be experienced outside the building.

In the rear of the building the wing-like roof rests on three columns. Their form is orientated on a moment of movement of the leg of a horse who has been moving there in former times. They are digitally generated and a product of a computer supported, modern steel technology.

In Muenster it proverbial rains a lot. Along an open cullis on the entire length of the building the rainfall is being staged and becomes a special experience as it drops down like a curtain in form of a second layer in front of the glass façade. The rainwater is collected in an infiltration ditch in front of the building and returned ecologically to the terrain.

Between new and old roof a light gap illuminates the historic stable wall. Stairs and openings in the wall prevent standstill and contribute to an interconnection of historic building and new extension.

Awards:
European Steel Design Award for Students, 2009



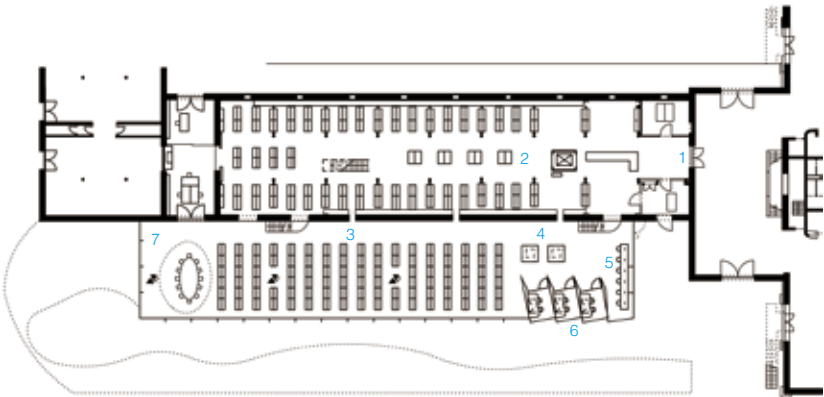


1



2

1. Interior installation
2. Single working zone



Floor plan

- 1. Entrance
- 2. Existing building
- 3. Open stacks
- 4. Magazines
- 5. Single working zone
- 6. Study carrels
- 7. Conference zone



1

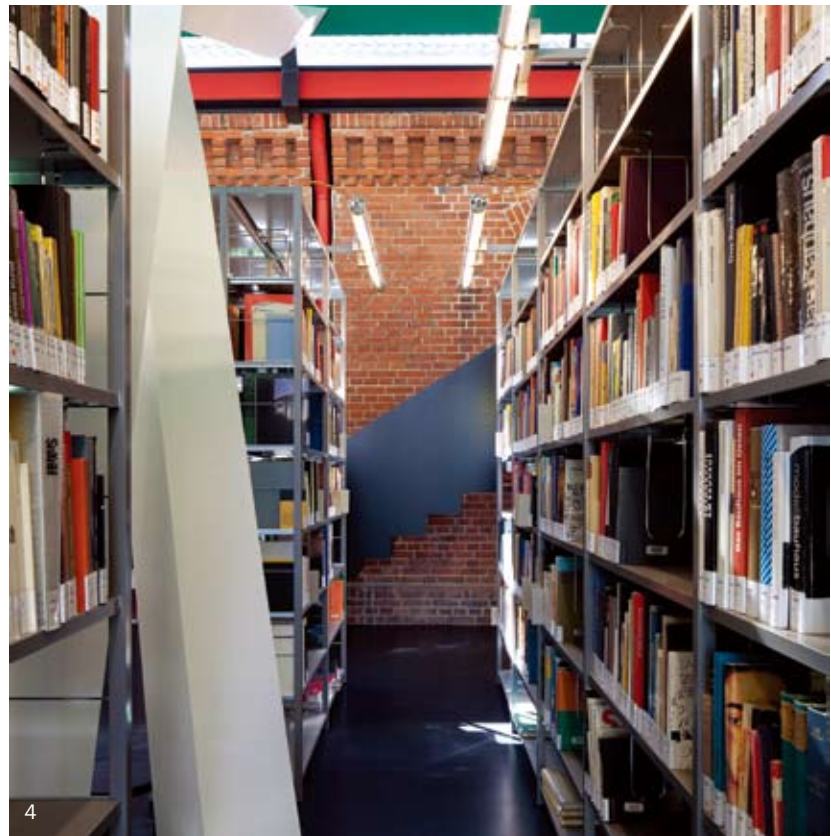


3

1. Magazine area
2-4. Open stacks



2



4



1



2

1. Conference zone enclosed by the curtain
2. Conference zone with the curtain withdrawn
3. View towards the stacks from the conference zone



3

Architect: Sasaki Associates **Location:** Baltimore, Maryland, USA **Completion:** 2008 **GFA:** 20,625 m²
Photography: Robert Benson Photography



- 1. ROOF GARDEN
Stormwater filter for water management and reuse
- 2. OFFICES LIGHTWELL
Indirect lighting and natural ventilation
- 3. LIBRARY LIGHTWELL
Indirect lighting and natural ventilation
- 4. OVERHANGING ROOF
Daylighting control for east reading room
- 5. VERTICAL FINS
Block early morning and late afternoon sun. Diffuse and refract light into the building
- 6. AIR INTAKE TRENCH CLERESTORY WINDOWS
Natural ventilation

- 1. West façade details
- 2. Green roof and terrace
- 3. Day-lit loggia



Morgan State University, Earl S. Richardson Library

The Earl S. Richardson Library at Morgan State University balances a sense of importance and renewed pride with an equal sense of transparency and welcome – “Impressive, not oppressive” was the university president’s charge to the design team. The new library also represents an investment in the future of a prominent traditionally African-American institution, the result of a decade-long effort by the US Department of Education and state lawmakers to correct years of underfunding for capital improvements at the university compared to other universities in the state.

The library’s glass curtain wall serves to strengthen and animate the adjacent pedestrian mall and lends a sense of openness and animation. The building is multidirectional, with no “back” to it. To the north, it visually connects to the academic campus, with a visual link to Holmes Hall, the university’s most iconic building. Along the south the building establishes an edge to a lawn that visually links the University Commons to Hillen Road, while the west elevation of the library forms a link between the campus and the adjacent residential community.

There are both open areas that allow talking and group study and honours study areas that enforce quiet. Flexibility of interior spaces was key. A system of 3.66-metre and 8.22-metre modules is the basis for the entire library plan. Stack areas can easily be converted into classrooms, seminar rooms, open group study, etc. With both of these dimensions divisible by three and library shelving in 0.9-metre modules, an infinite and quickly adaptable combination of spaces can be configured. Book stacks can be increased or reduced as storage requirements and collection size dictate; removable partitions and easily portable furniture and fixtures mean that administrative and reading areas can also be tailored to specific needs.

The library’s signature interior space is a broad interior loggia set behind the glass façade. Student reading areas are placed against the glass and connected to the rest of the building through a series of bridges that penetrate a panelled wood wall punctuated with windows and display cases in an orthogonal but playful geometric pattern. The glass display cases, visible inside and out, will accommodate the institution’s collection of African and African-American art, and jut out into the space to lend further visual interest.

Inherent in the design are sustainability features that save energy and increase occupant comfort. Roof overhang, glass fins, room occupancy sensors and solar-tracking automated window shades maximise natural light and minimise heat loss in winter and heat gain in summer. A glass lightwell with an elegant-looking silk light tube brings natural light deep into the interior. A green roof reduces heat island effect and is positioned to be visible from the new university board room at the top of the building.

The new library’s efficient but elegant design heralds a new era of openness, transparency and growth for one of America’s oldest historically African-American institutions of higher learning.





Awards:
IIDA New England Chapter Design Awards, Best Education Design, 2009
McGraw Hill Publications, "Best of the Best for Higher Education", 2008
AIA Maryland Chapter, Institutional Category, Merit Award, 2008
AIA Baltimore Chapter, Honourable Mention, 2008
AIA Potomac Valley Chapter, Honour Award, 2008
Mid-Atlantic Construction Magazine, Institutional Project of the Year, 2008



1. East elevation by night
2. Visual connections made with campus landmarks
3. Glass and stone detail
4. View of interior loggia from the top level



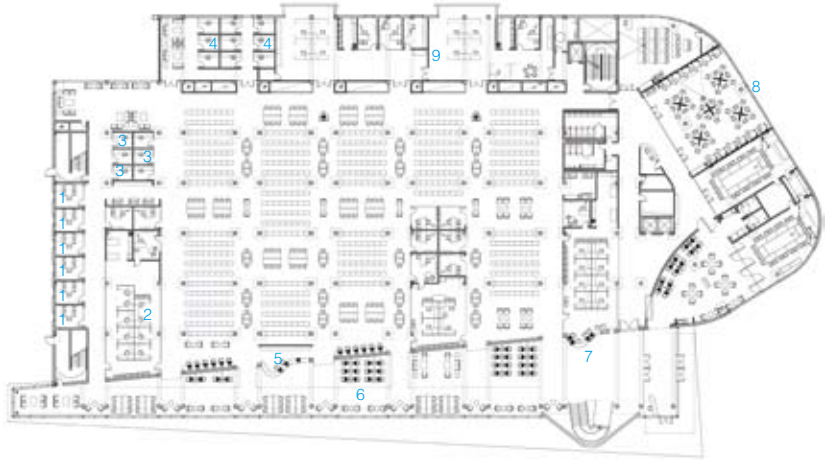


1



2

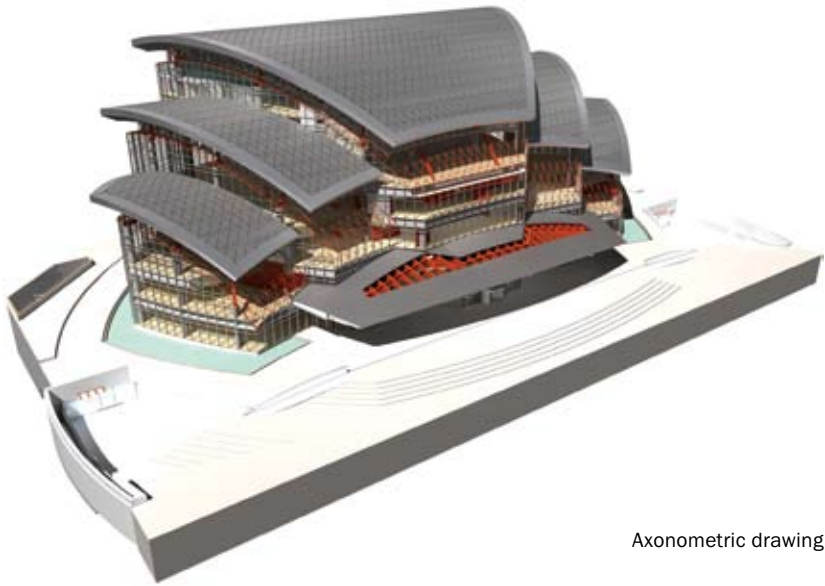
Ground floor plan



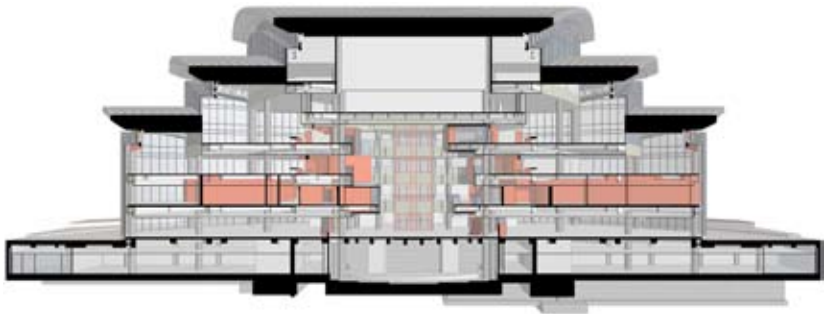
- 1. Group study room
- 2. Government docs
- 3. Study carrels
- 4. Faculty / graduate study carrels
- 5. Reference desk
- 6. East reading room / atrium
- 7. Circulation desk
- 8. Information technology
- 9. Staff

1. View of interior loggia
2. Reading room with natural daylight

Architect: Samoo Architects & Engineers **Location:** Seoul, Korea **Completion:** 2009 **GFA:** 24,000 m²
Photography: Yum Seung Hoon



Axonometric drawing



Section A-A

Samsung Library in Sungkyunkwan University

A resource centre where people can retrieve information systematically is an essential goal that the designers bear in mind for this information centre. The theme “Digital Library” has been the most basic concept to apply in this design. The Sungkyunkwan University Samsung Library has an image of a ginkgo leaf, which is the symbol of Sungkyunkwan University as well as an image of an opened book. The Digital Library which has been embodied with transparent and metallic materials is set to reorganise the context of the campus as a hub of information exchange in the heart of the campus.

The centre is a multi-functional facility providing conventions and resting areas. The inner round-shaped void creates a hall, allowing sunlight to flow inside. Group study rooms are freely dispersed near the hall, creating dynamic rhythms. Also, free community zones are a new type of multi-functional place, which are far different from the quiet and closed typical studying rooms. The Sungkyunkwan University Samsung Library represents a new type of library that is appropriate for the digital era where students can study while socialising with friends, surfing the internet, listening to music, and drinking coffee.

To create a grand interior space, the designers eliminated columns while replacing them with 3D space frames. They used 3D computer analysis to optimise the size of the structural components and through these process came up with the most efficient structural system.

The Steel Curtain Wall that they used on this project is very different from those of the past. To maximise the architectural beauty as well as the hi-tech complex feel of the building, the designers used 3D computer-aided design works to come up with the final result, which was also constructed with the aid of 3D cutting and assembly.

- 1. Rear entrance
- 2. Roof detail
- 3. Panorama by day
- 4. Panorama by night



1



2



3



4



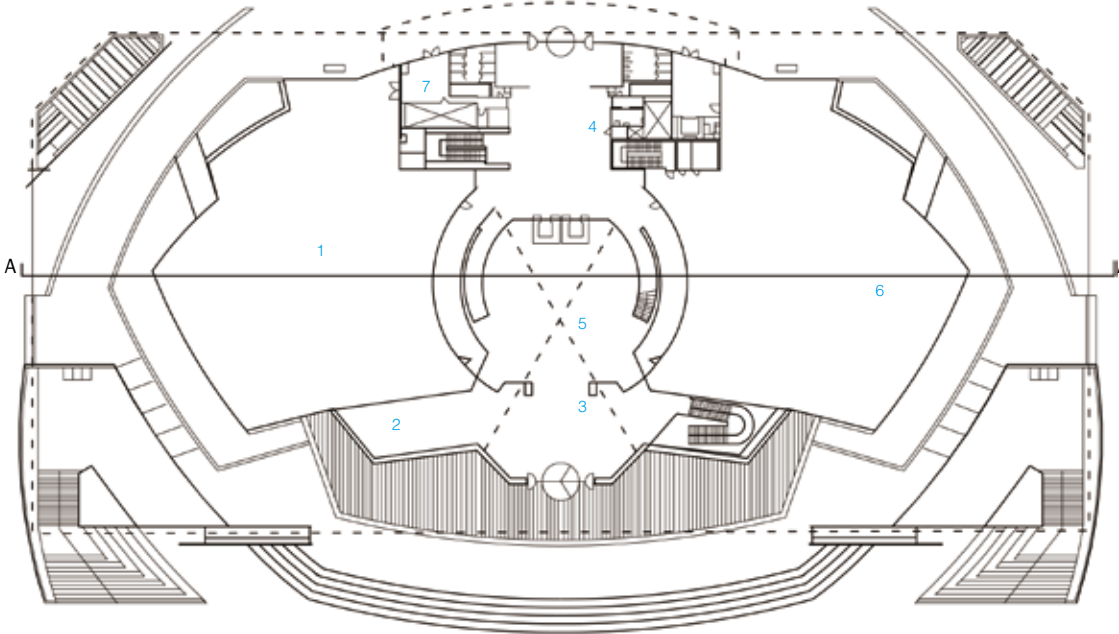
1



2

- 1. Lobby
- 2. Meeting room

- 1 Search room
- 2 Exhibition hall
- 3 Lobby
- 4 Hall
- 5 Upper open
- 6 Free reading room
- 7 Data keeping room



Ground floor plan



1. Facilities in the digital library
 2. Digital library
 3. Book collection

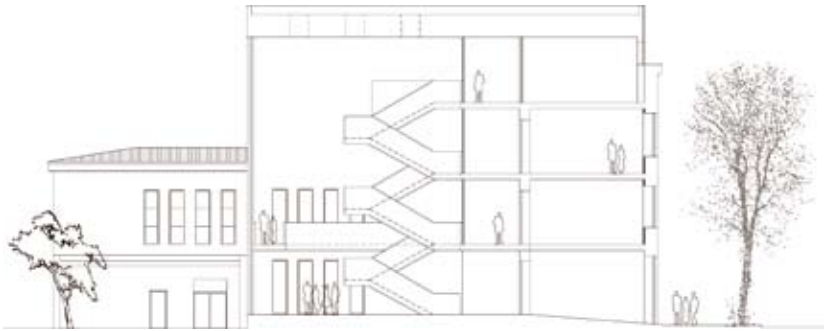


Siauliai University Library

Architect: 4 PLIUS Architects / Donaldas Trainauskas & Darius Baliukevicius **Location:** Siauliai, Utena, Lithuania **Completion:** 2009 **GFA:** 4,500 m² **Photography:** J. Kamenskask



Front elevation



Section

- 1. Panorama
- 2. Façade along the street



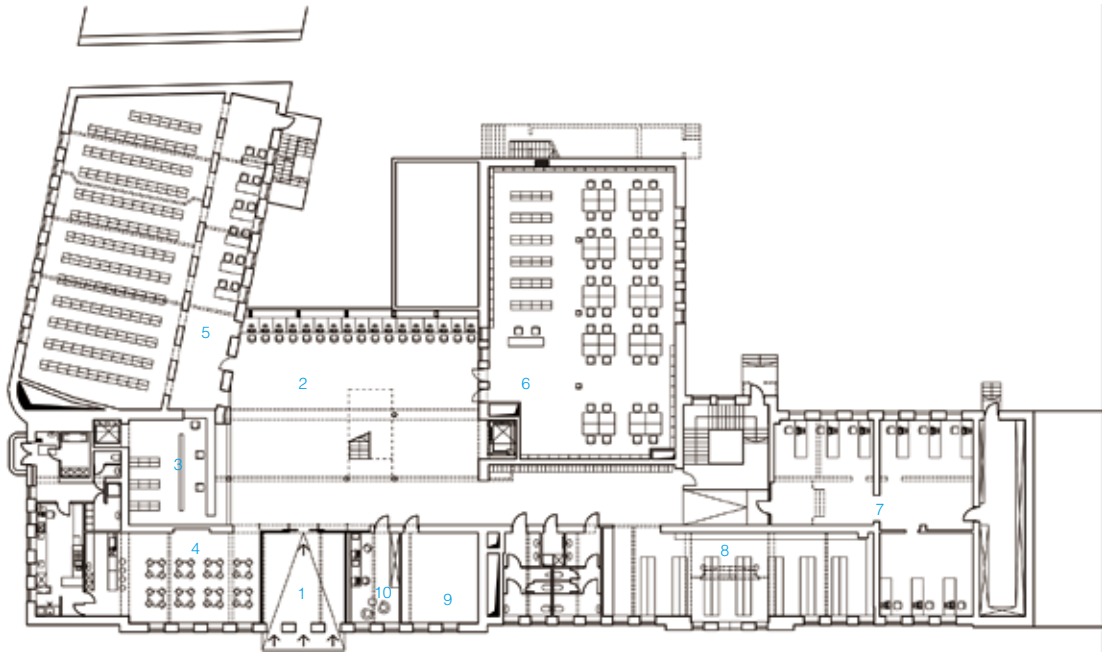


1



2

1. Dusk view
2-3. Computer service area



Ground floor plan

- 1. Entrance
- 2. Lobby
- 3. Reception
- 4. Cafeteria
- 5. Literature collection
- 6. Reading room
- 7. Management section
- 8. Wardrobe
- 9. Playground area
- 10. Security office



3



1



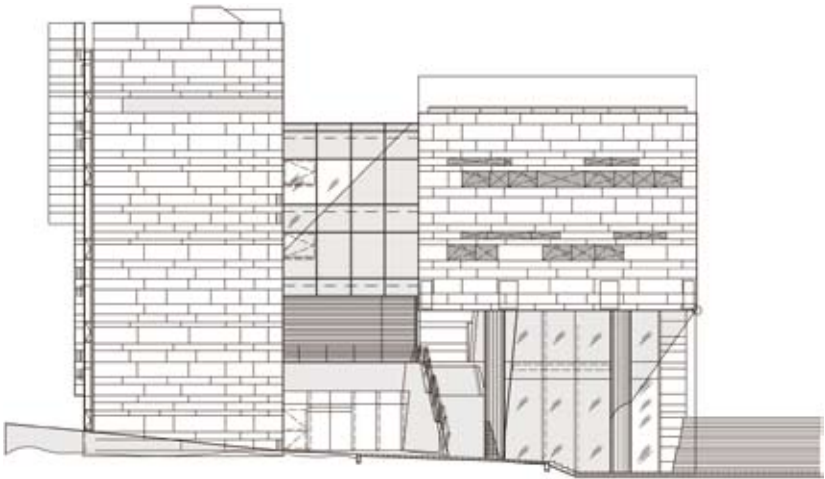
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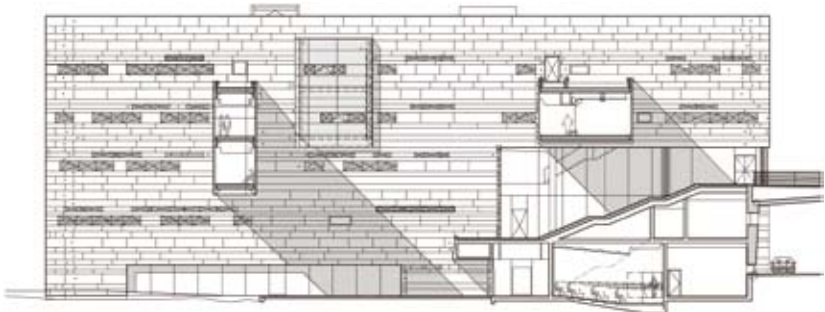
3

- 1. Barrier-free space
- 2. Lounge
- 3. Reading room

Architect: Kimmel-Eshkolot Architects **Location:** Be'er Sheva, Israel **Completion:** 2007 **GFA:** 6,000 m²
Photography: Amit Giron



West elevation



Section

1. Seating on the terrace
2. Night view
3. Entrance



The Diller Centre, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

The Diller Centre for humanities is a new building in the existing university campus that hosts a few departments (faculties), among which is the Bedouin centre devoted for the studies of the Bedouin culture. This centre is entered from the bridge connecting this new Diller centre to the exiting campus. An architectural experience is created for those passing through the building, by means of novel and distinct perspectives that open up while descending and ascending. The inner court and the transparency permit varied views through the building and into it.

The library on the mezzanine level contains a unique collection of books. The library is divided into areas devoted to storage, study and display. These areas are constructed from wood interspersed with transparent and opaque glass, patterned in harmony with the rhythm of the building's envelope. The writers' archives and the cafeteria were placed along a gently sloping pathway. Movement takes place in the open public space between two wings of the building, comprising entrances to different parts of the building.

The building responds to the desert climate as well as to its built surroundings. By using the technology developed specially for this building – concrete cladding with an isolation ventilated layer behind it – and a texture of small horizontal windows, the building enjoys cool temperatures in the hot hours of the day, with transparencies in elevations well protected by the cantilevered sections of the building.

The shell of the building represents its skin at birth rather than some garment sewn on completion of the design. Much research was devoted to choosing materials for the floating shell. Because of the demand that the building should be covered with exposed concrete, various execution options were considered: on-site construction or building with pre-fabricated elements. In addition, the architects searched for light weight materials that would integrate with concrete, such as wood and glass.

Awards:
Israel National Association of Builders and Developers, Prize of Excellence, 2008

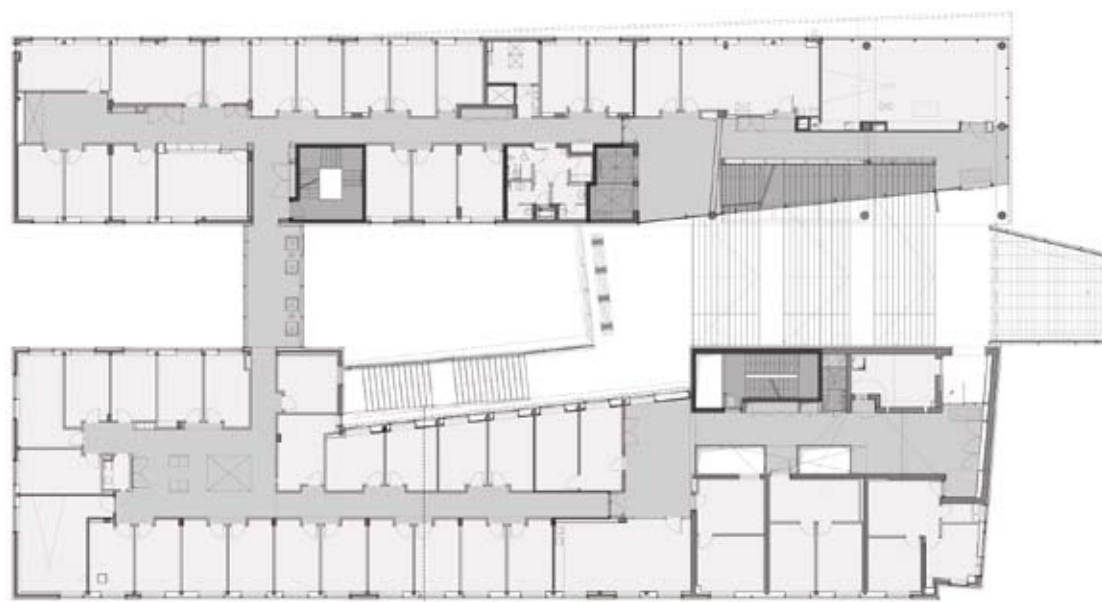


3





1. Panorama
2. Courtyard at dusk



Ground floor plan



2



1



2

- 1. Connecting bridge
- 2. Library
- 3. Lounge in the gallery



3

Architect: Grosfeld van der Velde Architects **Location:** Utrecht, The Netherlands **Completion:** 2009
GFA: 6,500 m² **Photography:** René de Wit



Front elevation



Sections

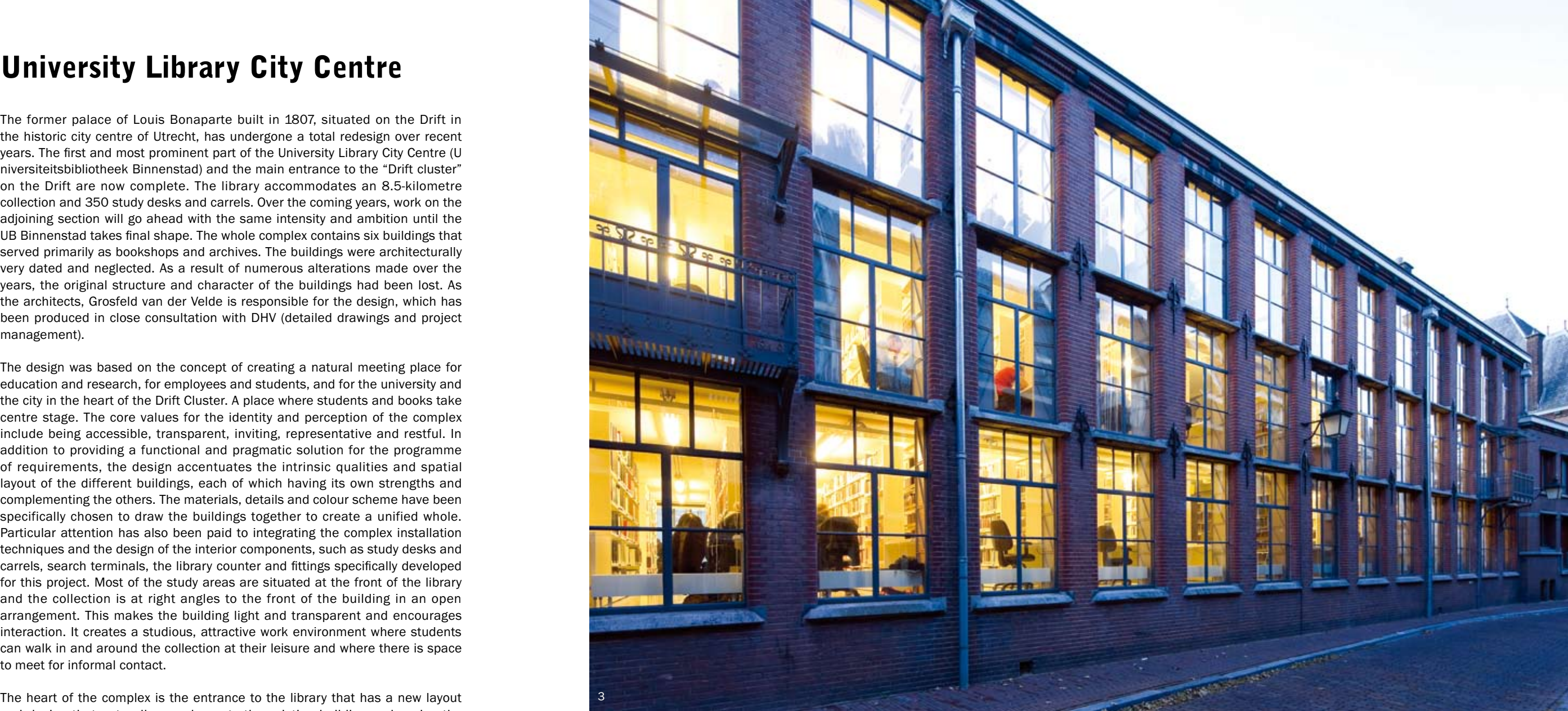
- 1. Entrance
- 2. Night view
- 3. Night view
- 4. Exit



1



2



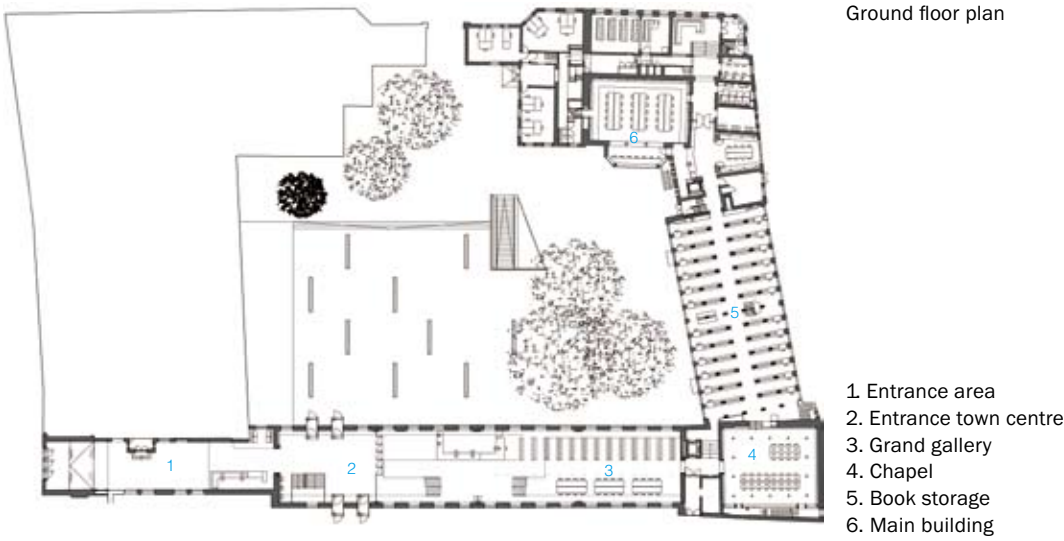
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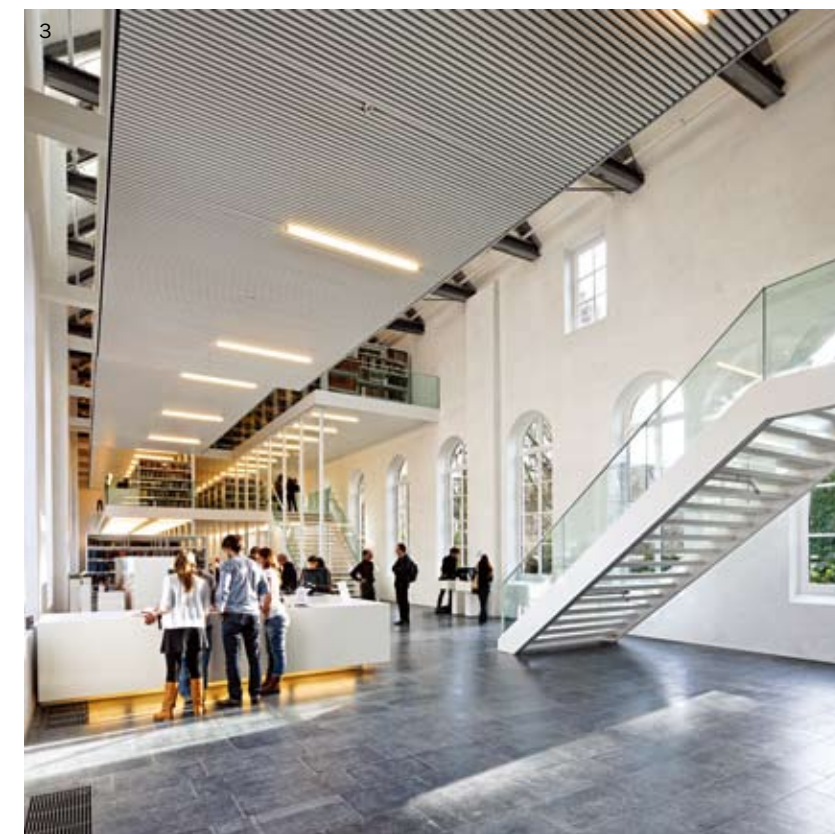
1. Hall
2. Entrance and reception



- 1. Entrance area
- 2. Entrance town centre
- 3. Grand gallery
- 4. Chapel
- 5. Book storage
- 6. Main building



1-3. Entrance and reception





1



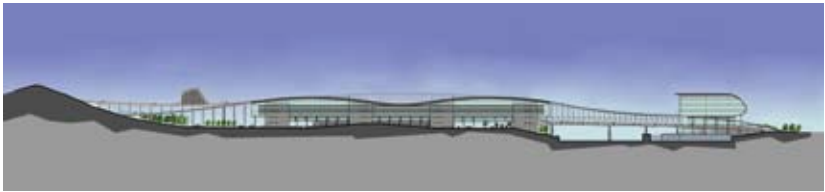
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- 1. Internet area
- 2. Bookshelves
- 3. Bookshelves in exposed brick-and-concrete walls

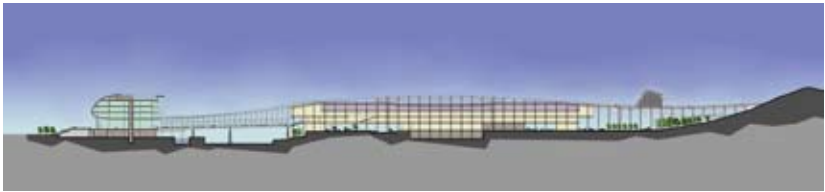


3

Architect: RMJM **Location:** Shenzhen, China **Completion:** 2007 **GFA:** 40,530 m² **Photography:** H.G. Esch Photography



East elvation



Section A-A

University Town Library

This new University Town Library (Shenzhen Library of Science and Technology) project was won by RMJM as part of a limited entry competition. The scheme is a new “gateway icon” for the campus shared by the graduate schools of Peking University, Tsinghua University, Harbin Institute of Technology and Nankai University. Taking into account the design concept of “unity and modernity”, the long, undulating form of the design echoes the gentle form of the surrounding hills whilst the contemporary materials reflect the erudite language of education and knowledge. Under its wavy roof, the building integrates the requirements of the administration centre and the library elements needed by the four universities. It also acts as a public library for the local area. The building is at the interface of the universities’ campuses and while the entrance plaza, bridge and roof garden provide a series of important public spaces for the entire campus, the structure itself has become a cutting-edge landmark building.

The UTL project sits on a 51,600-square-metre site with 46,750 square metres (GFA) of usable space. With its long undulating form, the structure accommodates a library and an administration centre. The administration centre is located at one end of the structure, in a form symbolic of a “dragon’s head”, while the library tails off as its body looks like a “rising dragon”. The library and administrative centre have bridges that link the areas and the designers worked these bridge structures into a key architectural design element for the building. More importantly, the library is designed to hold 1.5 million books, 3,000 seats, 1,700 data ports and accommodate up to 8,000 visitors a day.

The design promotes a neutral background of light and volumes framing extraordinary vistas of the natural landscape setting. Decoration is kept to a minimum and the space is neatly defined by surface, lines and nodes. The external colours of the building combine white and grey, which makes the building sit harmoniously amongst the green hills and surrounding water. The neutrality of grey allows adjacent colours of the natural environment to stand out gracefully. Modern materials such as glass, aluminium and steel on the exterior, were chosen for their endurance, low maintenance and suitability.

The majority of the building’s internal spaces have open-plan layouts. Full-height curtain walls are utilised on the east and west façades so that natural daylight floods the interior. The interior colour palette takes a combination of grey and white mixed with orange to create a vibrant theme in the library.

The library’s interior design along with architecture design gives the building a feel of elegance. Spacious design is applied in all floors with the same height, pole distance and payload, which makes it convenient for patrons and library’s future expansion. It is a library where people enjoy reading and studying quietly and peacefully.

Awards:
AIA HK Merit Award, 2007



- 1. Context
- 2. Aerial view
- 3. Panorama



First floor plan

- 1. Hall
- 2. Borrowing / returning books area
- 3. Index area
- 4. General books / science & technology area
- 5. Individual study rooms
- 6. Group study rooms



- 1. Entrance
- 2. West façade
- 3. East façade





1



3



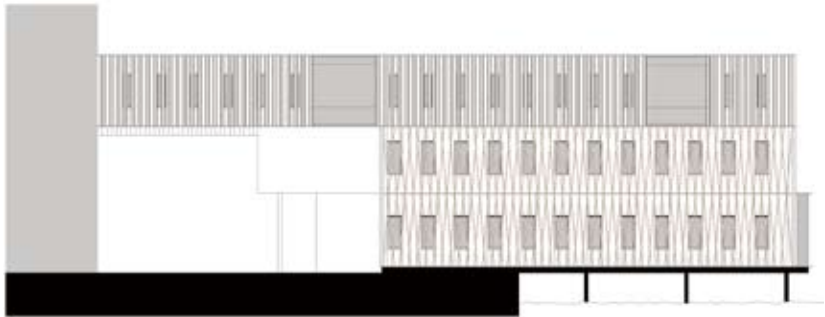
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- 1. Corridor
- 2. Structure
- 3. Study room
- 4. Meeting room

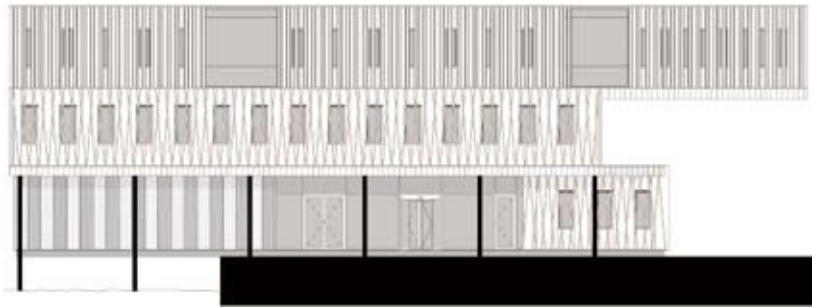


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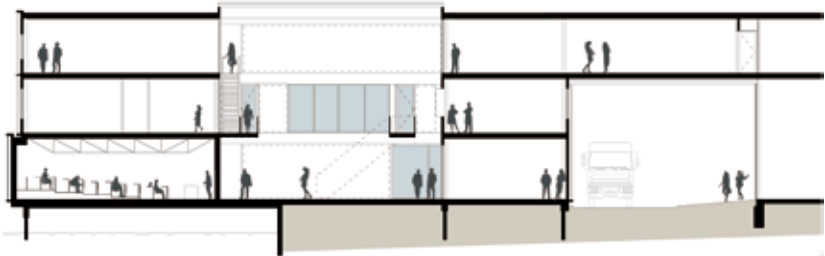
Architect: pvanb architecten **Location:** Groningen, The Netherlands **Completion:** 2009 **GFA:** 2,200 m²
Photography: Gerard van Beek Photography (Images by night) & SAPh / Rob de Jong (Images by day)



South elevation



West elevation



Section A-A

1. Close-up of façade
2. Airbridge connection
3. Night view
4. Two parts connected



WSN Building Pavilion

On the campus of Groningen University, pvanb architecten built an extension to the Duisenberg Building, which houses the Faculty of Economics & Business and Spatial Science. The extension contains part of the library, offices and a lecture hall. The new building is part of a masterplan by West 8, which stipulates freestanding, exuberant pavilion buildings for this section of the campus. This design deviates from that plan because the client wanted the library directly linked to the Duisenberg Building, which has since been partially renovated. The project was constrained by a tight budget and equally tight time frame: the architects had just four months to produce a construction-ready design. So it was reason able enough to get together with the structural engineer, building services engineer, building physics consultant and contractor right from the start. The key issue was how, given the substantial programme and limited budget, to produce a building with the desired “exuberance”. In order to fit the programme into a lucid and compact volume, it was organised in a pentagon around a central void. The void brings light into the building and clarifies the spatial layout; the pentagonal plan keeps sightlines to and from the surroundings open.

This clever organisational strategy made it possible to accommodate the programme in a three-storey volume attached, as requested by the client, to the Duisenberg Building. The top floor contains the library, which is connected to the main building by an air bridge. Below this are two floors of offices and a lecture hall. The programmatically “logical” organisation did, however, present a structural challenge, since it put the open lecture hall at the bottom and the heavy library on the top. This, in combination with the desire for speedy construction, resulted in the use of a steel frame with concrete floors and sandwich panel façades.

The plain façades have been given depth by the application of a second skin consisting of white, yellow and red aluminium coffers, profiles and variously perforated expanded metal sheeting. This produces a moiré effect (interference pattern) over the entire façade surface, with a different pattern of perforations for each of the building’s functions. Although the moiré façade has a softening effect, the harder “real” façade is always visible and so becomes part of a layered visual game. This balance between optical dynamism and an “honest” technical appearance is continued in the interior. In fact, it is even emphasised in the lecture hall where the huge truss girders are painted the same bright red as the seats and floor covering and become part of the interior design. By this ingenious method, the pavilion has acquired an exuberance befitting the campus context.

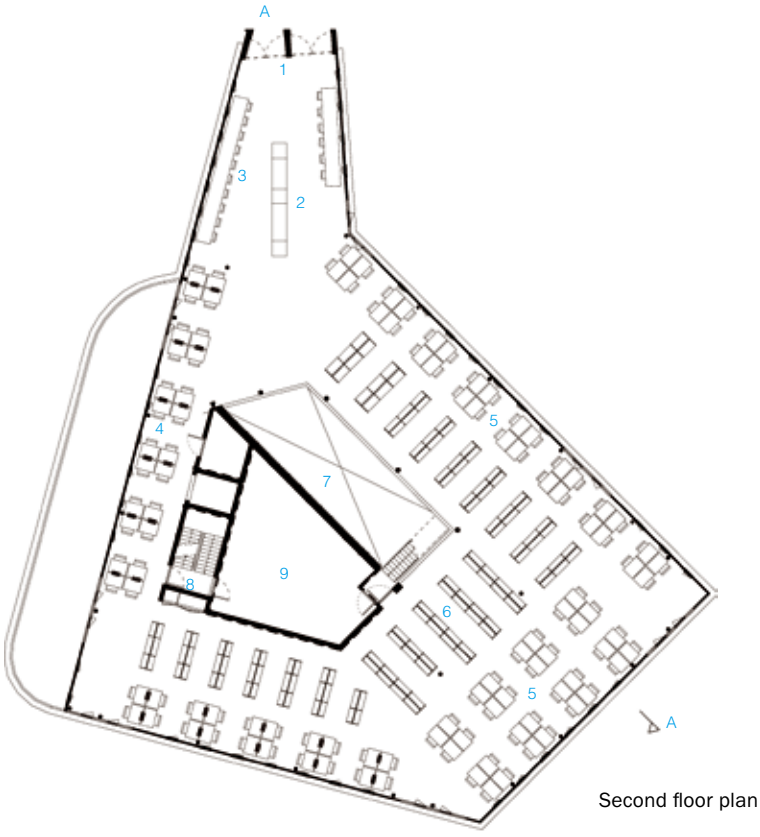




1. Road passing through
2. Façade detail
3. View from river



1. Entrance to first-phase EBR Library
2. Shelves for magazines
3. Reading tables
4. Workstations with PC
5. Workstations without PC
6. Library book shelves
7. Central void
8. Staircase
9. Installation room



Second floor plan



1



3



2

- 1. Entrance hall
- 2. Bookshelves
- 3. Reading area
- 4. Lecture hall



4

Index

4 PLIUS Architects

M.K.iurlionio 19 / Z.Sierakausko 36, Vilnius, Lithuania
Tel/Fax: +370 5 2650015
Mob: +370 686 44575
Siauliai University Library *P.* *238*
Public Library of A. & M. Miskiniai in Utena *P.* *128*

Architects Lahdelma & Mahlamäki

Tehtaankatu 29 a, FI-00150 Helsinki, Finland
Tel: +358 9 2511 020
Fax: +358 9 2511 0210
www.ark-l-m.fi
Lohja Main Library *P.* *72*

Architekten BDA

Federal Secretariat, Köpenicker Straße 48/49, 10179 Berlin, Germany
Tel: +49 30 27 87 99 0
Fax: +49 30 27 87 99 15
www.bda-bund.de

Library for Architecture, Art and Design, Leonardo Campus, Muenster *P.* *218*

ArchOffice

1A, 47 Brown Street, PO Box 147 – 241, Ponsonby, Auckland, 1144, New Zealand
Tel: +0064 09 360 2817
Fax: +0064 09 360 2818
www.archoffice.co.nz

Birkenhead Library and Civic Centre *P.* *4*

Bühler and Bühler

600 Q Street, Suite 200, Sacramento, CA 95811, USA
Tel: +001 916 443 0303
Fax: +001 916 443 0313
www.bbse.com

Library for Architecture, Art and Design, Leonardo Campus, Muenster *P.* *218*

DANU Architects / Engineers Co., Ltd.

831-7 Bangbai-dong Seocho-gu, Seoul, Korea
Tel: +82 2 595 5891
Fax: +82 2 595 5896
www.idanu.com
Chungwoon University Library *P.* *206*

Diamond and Schmitt Architects

384 Adelaide Street West, Suite 300,

Toronto, Ontario M5V 1R7, Canada

Tel: +001 416 862 8800
Fax: +001 416 862 5508
www.dsai.ca

North Vancouver City Library *P.* *116*

Dok Architecten

Entrepotdok 86, Postbus 15216, 1001 ME Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Tel: +31 20 3449700
Fax: +31 20 3449799
www.dokarchitecten.nl
Media Library *P.* *86*

Dominique Coulon Architects

4 rue du Faubourg de Saverne, 67000 Strasbourg, France
Tel: +33 3 88 32 17 61
Fax: +33 3 88 32 26 43
www.coulon-architecte.fr
Library in Anzin *P.* *62*

fjmt

5Level 5, 140 George Street, Sydney 2000 NSW, Australia
Tel: +612 9251 7077
Fax: +612 9251 7072
www.fjmt.com.au
Max Webber Library *P.* *80*

Grosfeld van der Velde Architects

LReduitlaan 39, 4814 DC Breda, The Netherlands
Tel: +31 76 5221811
www.grosfeldvandervelde.nl
University Library City Centre *P.* *250*

Haworth Tompkins

19-20 Great Sutton Street, London EC1V 0DR, UK
Tel: +44 020 7250 3225
Fax: +44 020 7250 3226
www.haworthtompkins.com
The London Library *P.* *154*

Houser Walker Architecture

1473 Spring St. NW, Atlanta, GA 30064, USA
Tel: +001 404 633 4264
Fax: +001 404 870 7337
www.houserwalker.com
Toco Hill – Avis G. Williams Library *P.* *162*

Hughes Condon Marler Architects

Suite 300, 1508 West 2nd Ave, Vancouver BC, Canada V6J 1H2
Tel: +001 604 732 6620
Fax: +001 604 732 6695
http://hcma.ca
Whistler Public Library *P.* *186*

Hyunjoon Yoo Architects

362-11 Sukyodong 4F, Mapogu, Seoul, Korea
Tel: +82 2 334 8508
Fax: +82 2 334 8518
www.hyunjoonyoo.com
Chungwoon University Library *P.* *206*

ikon.5 architects

864 Mapleton Road, Suite 100, Princeton, New Jersey 08540, USA
Tel: +001 609 919 0099
Fax: +001 609 919 0088
www.ikon5architects.com
Hockessin Public Library *P.* *48*
Kirkwood Highway Public Library *P.* *54*

JKMM Architects

Lapinrinne 3, 00100 Helsinki, Finland
Tel: +358 9 2522 0700
Fax: +358 9 2522 0710
www.jkmm.fi
Turku City Library *P.* *176*

Kimmel-Eshkolot Architects

27 Chelouche St. Tel Aviv 65149, Israel
Tel: +972 3 5176059
Fax: +972 3 5100950
www.kimmel.co.il
The Diller Centre, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev *P.* *244*

KSP Jürgen Engel Architekten

Hanauer Landstrasse 287-289, D-60314 Frankfurt/Main, Germany
Tel: +49 69 94 43 94-0
Fax: +49 69 94 43 94-38
www.ksp-architekten.de
National Library of China *P.* *96*

LM Architectural Group

500 - 136 Market Avenue, Winnipeg Manitoba, Canada R3B 0P4
Tel: +001 204 942 0681

Fax: +001 204 943 8676
www.lm-architects.com
Winnipeg Library Addition *P.* *192*

LOOK Architects

18 Boon Lay Way #09-135, TradeHub 21, Singapore 609966
Tel: +65 6316 8676
Fax: +65 6316 8690
www.lookarchitects.com
Bishan Public Library *P.* *12*

Mazzanti & Arquitectos

Calle 29 No. 6-94 Of. 401, Bogota, Colombia
Tel: +57 (1)3406564 2326309
www.giancarlomazzanti.com
España Library *P.* *36*
Public Library Leon de Greiff *P.* *122*

Meyer, Scherer & Rockcastle, Ltd. (MS&R)

710 South 2nd Street 8th Floor, Minneapolis, MN 55401, USA
Tel: +001 612 375 0336
Fax: +001 612 342 2216
www.msrltd.com
Rancho Mirage Public Library *P.* *142*

Moore Ruble Yudell Architects and Planners

933 Pico Boulevard, Santa Monica, California 90405, USA
Tel: +001 310 450 1400
Fax: +001 310 450 1403
www.mryarchitects.com
Santa Monica Public Library *P.* *148*

Patkau Architects

1564 West 6th Ave, Vancouver BC, Canada V6J 1R2
Tel: +001 604 683 7633
Fax: +001 604 683 7634
www.patkau.ca
Quebec Grand Library *P.* *134*
Winnipeg Library Addition *P.* *192*

Perkins Eastman

115 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10003, USA
Tel: +001 212 353 7200
Fax: +001 212 353 7676
www.perkinseastman.com
Chongqing Library *P.* *26*

Planungsgemeinschaft zauberscho(e)n

Leonardo Campus 5, 48149 Muenster, Germany
Tel: +0251 83 65 0 60
Fax: +0251 83 65 0 72
www.zauberschon.eu
Library for Architecture, Art and Design, Leonardo Campus, Muenster *P.* *218*

Projektil Architekti

Malátova 13, 150 00 Prague 5, Czech Republic
Tel: +420 222 365 000, +420 233 325 799, +420 608 261 296
Fax: +420 222 365 014
www.projektil.cz
National Technical Library *P.* *104*

pvanb architecten

De Puddingfabriek, Viaductstraat 3a, Postbus 458, 9700 AL Groningen, The Netherlands
Tel: +050 52 52 777
Fax: +050 36 03 825
www.pvanb.nl
EBR Library, University of Groningen *P.* *212*
WSN Building Pavilion *P.* *264*

Richärd + Bauer Architecture

1545 West Thomas Road, Phoenix, Arizona 85015, USA
Tel: +001 602 264 1955
Fax: +001 602 264 9234
www.richard-bauer.com
Arabian Public Library *P.* *198*

RMJM

10 Bells Brae, Edinburgh, EH4 3BJ, UK
Tel: +44 131 225 2532
Fax: +44 131 226 5117
www.rmjm.com
University Town Library *P.* *258*

Ross Barney Architects

10 West Hubbard Street, Chicago, Illinois 60610, USA
Tel: +001 312 832 0600
Fax: +001 312 832 0601
www.r-barc.com
Champaign Public Library *P.* *18*

Ryder Architecture

Generator Studios, Trafalgar Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 2LA, UK
Tel: +44 191 269 5454
www.ryderarchitecture.com
Newcastle City Library *P.* *112*

Samoo Architects & Engineers

Apple Tower 175, Jamsilbon-dong, Songpa-gu, Seoul 138-861, Korea
Tel: +82 2 3400 3114
Fax: +82 2 3400 3900 2
www.samoo.co.kr
Samsung Library in Sungkyunkwan University *P.* *232*

Sasaki Associates

64 Pleasant Street, Watertown, MA 02472, USA
Tel: +001 617 926 3300
Fax: +001 617 924 2748
www.sasaki.com
Morgan State University, Earl S. Richardson Library *P.* *226*

Schacht Aslani Architects

901 5th Avenue, Suite 2720, Seattle, WA 98164, USA
Tel: +001 206 443 3448
Fax: +001 206 443 3471
www.saarch.com
Douglass Truth Branch, The Seattle Public Library *P.* *32*

Schmidt Hammer Lassen Architects

Aaboulevar den 37, PO box 5117, 8000 Aarhus C, Denmark
Tel: +45 86 20 19 00
Fax: +45 86 18 45 13
www.shl.dk
Halmstad Library *P.* *42*

Hans van Heeswijk Architecten

Ertskade 111, 1019 BB Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Tel: +31 20 6225717
Fax: +31 20 6238284
www.heeswijk.nl
Town Hall Extension and New Public Library *P.* *168*

